THE TIMES

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My mad day at Oxford with Kathleen Stock

Janice Turner



Deborah Ross

Revealed! The big recycling con

Tablet that can head off migraines is first of its kind on NHS

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

Thousands of patients who suffer from frequent migraines will be offered a new drug on the NHS that prevents the headaches from setting in.

Rimegepant, which is taken every other day as a wafer tablet that dissolves under the tongue, has been approved for use by the treatment watchdog the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. It will be offered to 145,000 people in England who have between 4 and 15 migraines a month and who have not responded to existing treatments.

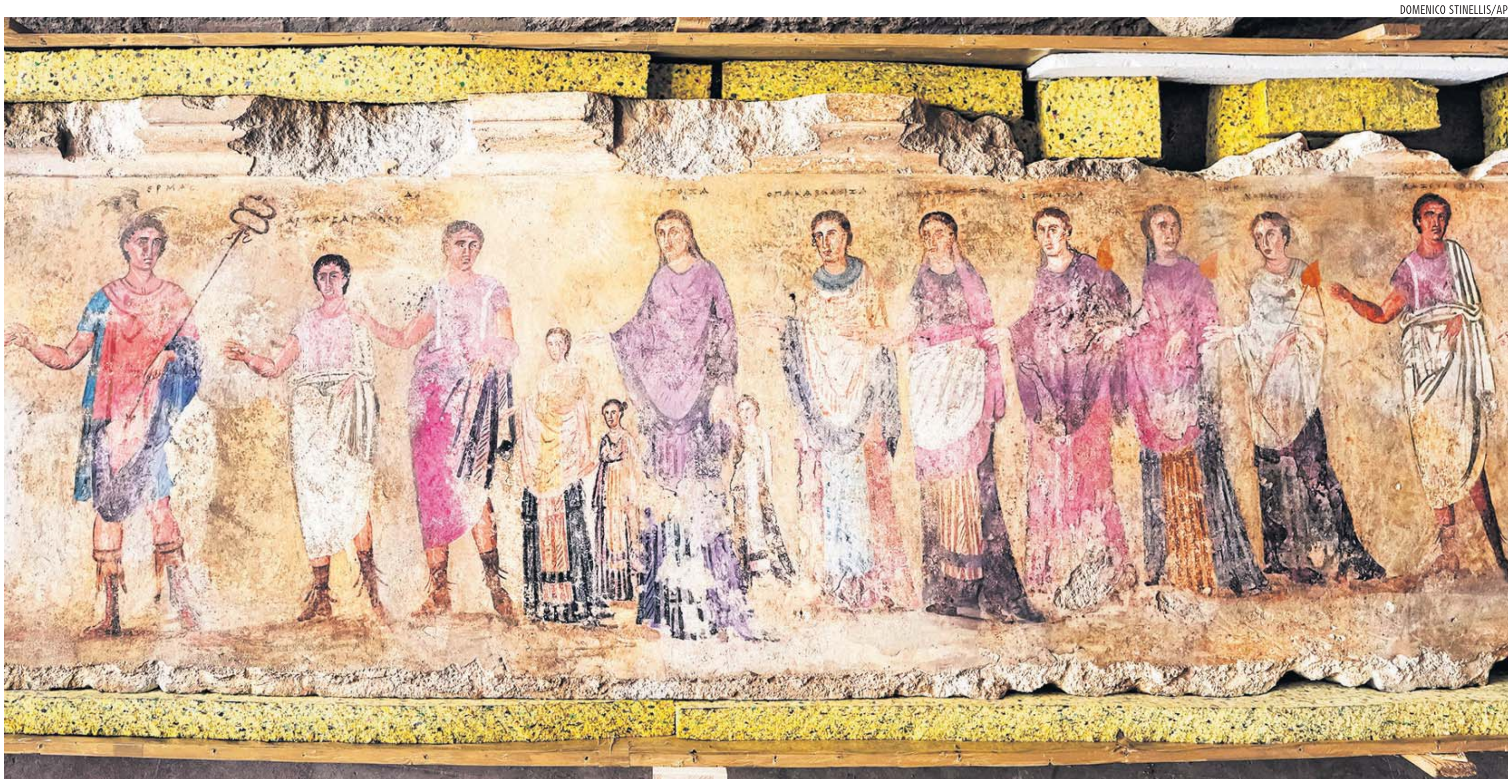
The medication blocks the release of a chemical called calcitonin gene-related peptide, or CGRP. When this builds up it causes inflammation in blood vessels intertwined with nerve endings in the brain, triggering migraine attacks. Rimegepant halves the frequency of moderate to severe headaches, and can also alleviate migraines if taken within minutes of symptoms beginning.

The drug, sold under the brand name Vydura, was developed by Pfizer and is the first preventive treatment of its kind to be introduced on the NHS. It comes after decades of scientific research, led by a team at King's College London, which unlocked the role of CGRP.

Migraines affect ten million people in the UK, and women are about three times more likely to be affected than men. Until recently treatment focused on relieving symptoms rather than addressing the cause. Three other CGRP inhibitors have been made available on the NHS since 2020, but only as monthly injections.

Migraine attacks typically last 4 to 72 hours. An estimated 43 million work days are lost each year in Britain to migraine-related sickness. Toby Cousens, of Pfizer UK, said: "Migraines can place significant pressure on professional and personal lives."

DOMENICO STINELLIS/AP



Hidden treasure Ancient artefacts, including this undated wall painting, have been returned to Italy after being found among a £10 million collection belonging to the disgraced British antiques dealer Robin Symes. He has been accused of pillaging the country's treasures for decades before selling them to collectors. Page 5

Bulgaria to help Sunak stop more small boats

● Intelligence-sharing deal to target smugglers ● Britain seeks closer ties with Turkey too

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Britain will target Turkey and Bulgaria in efforts to tackle the small boats crisis as Rishi Sunak urges European leaders to make illegal migration the continent's top priority.

More than one million Syrian and Afghan refugees are considering leaving Turkey this year after the earthquake in February and the resumption of deportations to Afghanistan, according to the Home Office. Most are expected to attempt to travel to western Europe, including Britain. Border Force has also obtained evidence that Turkey has become a main hub for the manufacture of dinghies used by people smugglers ferrying migrants across the Channel, The Times has been told. The boats had been mostly made in China.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has now been given the task of "building closer links" with the Turkish authorities to target smuggling gangs, although a formal co-operation deal is not expected imminently.

Today Sunak will also announce a new partnership with Bulgaria to boost intelligence-sharing between the NCA and the Bulgarian police about the organised crime groups that smuggle boat equipment and people across the border.

Bulgaria has become a key point of EU entry both for gangs bringing in boats and engines from Turkey and for migrants after a crackdown on Aegean Sea crossings into Greece.

Downing Street said the new agreement would help Bulgaria to "destroy the business model" of the criminals. The Bulgarian border police have prevented 11,000 illegal entries across its border with Turkey since January, a 40 per cent increase on the same period last year.

Last night Sunak said illegal migration posed an "unprecedented" threat to Europe's borders. The prime minister will attempt to put the topic at the centre of the second summit of the European Political Community in Moldova today, despite the meeting's primary focus being on how Europe

Continued on page 2

Free speech tsar warns: Democracy is at stake

Emma Yeomans

Democracy is at stake if universities do not protect freedom of expression, the government's new free speech tsar says.

Arif Ahmed, a professor of philosophy at Cambridge, has been appointed director for freedom of speech and academic freedom at the Office for Students, the higher education regulator.

His role includes investigating incidents of no-platforming and the use of non-disclosure agreements, among others. The watchdog will have the power to fine or sanction universities that do not uphold free expression.

Writing in The Times today, he says: "We settle disputes by discussion, not censorship or violence. Today that idea is fading across our institutions. Universities must defend it by precept and example. Democracy itself is at stake."

This week protesters tried to cancel a talk at the Oxford Union by Kathleen Stock, the "gender-critical" academic who has challenged trans rights. Ahmed vowed to uphold free speech for "all views and approaches: post-colonial theory as much as gender-critical feminism". He said: "Free speech and academic freedom are vital to the core purpose of universities. They are not partisan values. They are also fundamental to our civilisation."

Rishi Sunak said: "A tolerant society is one which allows us to understand those we disagree with, and nowhere is that more important than within our great universities."

The government will set up a complaints scheme so students and academics who feel their speech has been restricted can seek redress.

'I'll defend all views', page 4

Ushering in an era of ever-encroaching censorship, Juliet Samuel, page 25

Issue of free speech, letters, page 28

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

8am **Lord Saville**, chairman of the Bloody Sunday inquiry, on expectations for the Covid inquiry

11am The Australian senator **James McGrath** on the "Australianisation" of British politics

2pm **Mariella Frostrup** chats to rapper **Big Narstie**

3.35pm The writer **Victoria Belim** on her book, The Rooster House: A Ukrainian Family Memoir

9.35pm **Darryl Morris** speaks to the journalist and author **Jon Ronson**, right



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

RAF diversity blunder payout

The RAF will pay compensation to 31 men whose training was delayed because of a diversity drive during which staff were told to pause courses for "useless white male pilots". Each pilot will receive £5,000 after the push was revealed in a leak. **Page 8**

Traffic protest crackdown wait

New police powers to stop protesters who use slow-walking tactics to bring traffic to a standstill will not be in place until the end of the month. The legislation will allow officers to intervene immediately and halt groups including Just Stop Oil. **Page 9**

Book sales are booming

The Harry Potter publisher Bloomsbury has reported its best financial results as people turn to reading as a more affordable type of entertainment in hard times. Sales were up 15 per cent to £264.1 million, and profits rose 16 per cent to £31.1 million. **Page 11**

64 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



West calls for calm in Kosovo

Western allies of Kosovo have urged it to back down in a confrontation with Moscow-backed ethnic Serbian protesters, accusing it of fanning tensions. The US said this week that Kosovo would be expelled from a Nato military exercise. **Page 30**

Monzo braced for £100m loss

Monzo has reported a sharp jump in its provisions for potential loan losses after a rapid push into the "buy now, pay later" industry. The digital bank has set aside £101.2 million to cover possible bad loans in the year to the end of February. **Page 35**

Uefa wants club spending cap

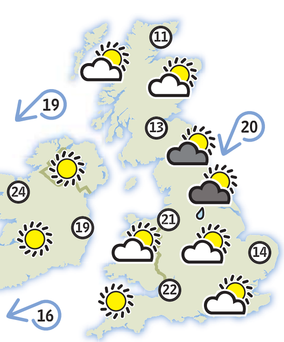
Uefa wants a cap on the total amount that clubs can spend on player wages and transfers in a single season and is working on a proposal that could satisfy the EU. It comes amid fears that English clubs could become even more dominant. **Page 70**

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THE WEATHER



Dry with warm spells of sunshine in the west but cooler and cloudier further east. **Full forecast, page 59**

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More graduates find jobs but women start £2,000 behind

George Willoughby

The number of graduates in full-time paid employment has risen again but female salaries still lag their male counterparts, a survey has found.

More than 60 per cent of graduates were in paid employment from the academic year of 2020-21, a four percentage point increase from the previous year and the most since 2017.

However, female graduates had a median salary of £25,000, some £2,000 lower than male graduates.

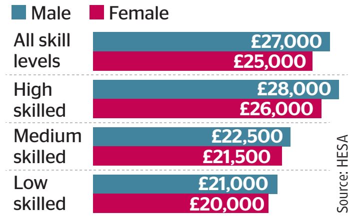
The figures are from the annual Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) survey where graduates are asked about their employment status roughly 15 months after they have finished their university courses. More than 355,050 graduates responded, a rate of 43 per cent.

Kate Nightingale, director of communications, campaigns and research at Young Women's Trust, an organisation campaigning for equal pay, said that women were unfairly paid as soon as they entered employment.

She said: "Pay inequality is there right from the start of working life and only grows over time. Women are putting in the effort to study but not getting the payoff at the end.

"Young women earn significantly less than young men – on average, around a fifth less per year despite tending to be more highly educated. There are a whole range of reasons for this, including young women going into

Pay gap



lower-paid jobs and sectors and not progressing as quickly. Discriminatory attitudes are still alive and well."

The results showed that there was a higher proportion of men earning the top graduate salaries. About 10 per cent of male graduates had a salary of £51,000 or above, double that of female graduates in full-time paid employment.

Alesha De-Freitas, head of policy at the Fawcett Society, which pushes for women's rights, said that employers must do a better job attracting female staff and warned of the economic impact of having a gender pay gap.

She said: "Employers must do more to ensure their hiring and pay policies do not disadvantage women and we urgently need to see more employers publishing action plans. We have a stubborn gender pay gap in the UK, which harms women and harms our economy. It is particularly concerning that this data reveals men begin their careers earning more than women, even when having the same level of qualification."

The HESA data also revealed that 10 per cent of graduates were either in further study or part-time employment, matching the figure in the previous survey.

Graduates who studied medicine and dentistry had the highest salary when they started full-time work. Of those who achieved a first, their median salary was £35,000, closely followed by veterinary science students at £32,000.

Former design and creative and performing arts students entering full-time employment had a median salary of £22,500, the lowest among all subjects in the survey. Media, journalism and communications graduates earned just £500 more annually, which was the second lowest.

The Department for Education did not comment on the graduate pay gap but said that opportunities for women in the workplace had increased.

An official said: "Over the last decade the gender pay gap has fallen from 20 per cent to 15 per cent, with the percentage of women in employment rising from 67 per cent to 72 per cent. We strongly urge all organisations to take steps to address the gender imbalance in pay.

"To help close the gap even further, we have announced a childcare revolution with 30 hours free childcare for children over the age of nine months."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bulgaria to help stop small boats

can step up its support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. Britain will host next year's summit for the group, which was set up by President Macron of France to boost co-operation among a wider range of European countries than just the EU.

Sunak will urge the 46 other leaders invited to the summit to follow Britain's lead by being firm on illegal migration. The government's Illegal Migration Bill, which is going through parliament, includes powers to remove migrants who arrive via irregular means and bar them from claiming asylum.

Sunak said: "Europe is facing unprecedented threats at our borders, from [President] Putin's utter contempt of other countries' sovereignty to the rise in organised immigration crime. We cannot address these problems without Europe's governments and institutions working closely together."

A deal to return migrants from Britain to Georgia comes into effect today and Sunak will announce the start of talks on a similar agreement with Moldova at the summit.

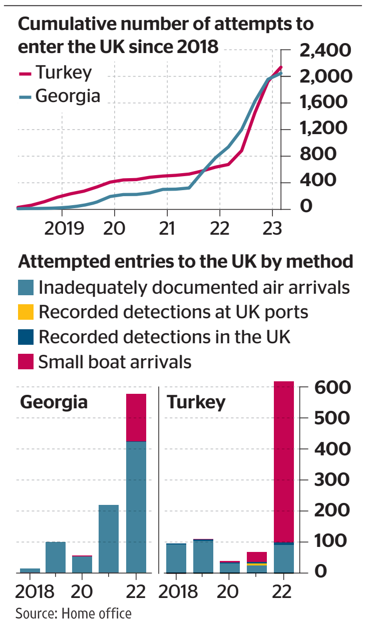
More than 2,000 Georgians have entered the UK illegally since 2018. The deal with Moldova will have a significantly smaller impact as only 17 people from the country have entered Britain through irregular means over the same period. No 10 said the deals nonetheless reduce the incentive for illegal arrivals.

There have also been talks with Frontex, the EU's border agency, about a post-Brexit intelligence-sharing deal.

The figure of more than one million refugees considering leaving Turkey is based on international and domestic reports after the devastating earthquake that hit the south of the country and northern Syria in February, killing 50,000 people and displacing 2.2 million.

They are predominantly Syrian refugees who have been given considerably less help than Turks because

Illegal arrivals



of the lack of support from Syria's government.

A Home Office source said they also expect "several hundred thousand" Afghans to flee Turkey as the state steps up its efforts to send them back to Afghanistan. More than 5,000 were deported early this year. "Both of these things are likely to lead to a big movement of refugees from Turkey to Europe," the Home Office source said.

The Home Office said: "Migration is driven by a number of factors and we will continue to work with international partners to overcome them. We have a close partnership with Turkey when it comes to the shared problem of illegal migration."

The NCA said: "Tackling people-smuggling is a top priority, and we work closely with international partners to disrupt the supply of vessels."

European leaders show unity, page 31

50 MPs want inheritance tax killed off

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor

Four former cabinet ministers and more than 50 Conservative MPs want inheritance tax to be abolished.

Nadhim Zahawi said that the tax was "morally wrong", Jacob Rees-Mogg labelled it "unfair" and Priti Patel said that it was "regressive and punitive".

The campaign is being championed by the Conservative growth group, a caucus of 55 MPs allied to Liz Truss.

Ranil Jaywardena, who was briefly environment secretary under Truss and leads the group, said: "We need to be bold and abolish inheritance tax altogether, no ifs, not buts. It's a death tax. It's also a double tax, because it's a tax on money that has already been taxed. It's not fair, it's not Conservative and it's not British. It needs to go."

Inheritance tax is typically charged at 40 per cent, although estates worth less than £325,000 are exempt. The threshold has been set at that level since 2010 and is set to remain there until 2028. The exchequer raised £7.1 billion in inheritance tax last year.

Zahawi, who was chancellor for the final weeks of Boris Johnson's government, wrote in The Daily Telegraph: "As well as being morally wrong to take someone's assets on their death, it also creates all sorts of inefficient and damaging distortions in our personal finances, and the wider economy."

A spokesman for the Treasury said: "More than 93 per cent of estates aren't expected to pay any inheritance tax in the coming years – however, the tax still raises more than £7 billion a year to help fund public services like the NHS and schools."

VOGUE



Naomi Campbell will be among the stars at the inaugural Vogue World event in London

Couldn't make the Met Gala? Buy a ticket for London's ball

Lucy Bannerman

Get your red-carpet couture ready. London is to play host to a dazzling event by Vogue celebrating the best in British fashion, theatre, dance and music which its organisers hope will enthral audiences in the same way as the Met Gala.

Stormzy, Naomi Campbell, Victoria Beckham, Michaela Coel and Sir Ian McKellen will be among the stars attending the live-streamed showcase of fashion and culture at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in September.

Whether Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, comes dressed as an omelette (after Rihanna in 2015) or carrying a replica of his own head (Jared Leto in 2019) remains to be seen, but organisers have promised "a night to remember".

The fundraising event, which will have a West End-inspired theme, is the brainchild of two of the most powerful names in fashion: Anna Wintour, Vogue's global editorial director, and Edward Enninful, the editor-in-chief of British Vogue.

It will be directed by Stephen Daldry, the Bafta and Olivier-winning director behind *The Crown* and *Billy Elliot*, and will kick off London Fashion Week by showcasing dramatic performances by more stars, yet to be announced, from the worlds of theatre, dance, film and television and classical and contemporary music.



Victoria Beckham and Sadiq Khan, centre, along with, behind, TikTok star Khaby Lame, deputy mayor for culture Justine Simons, and the NHS Choir, will also be at the Drury Lane event

Organisers say that Vogue World: London will be a different beast from the Met Gala, the annual fundraising event held on the first Monday of every May for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute.

For starters, tickets will go on general sale. Members of the public will be able to buy their own seat among the stars for £150 from June 2.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will go towards performing arts organisations, including the National Theatre, Royal Opera House, Royal Ballet and the Rambert dance company.

Wintour said she hoped the money raised would help support the British arts sector as it struggled to recover from the pandemic.

She said: "Our editors have spent so much time at fashion shows over the years, around the world, that we thought, 'Why not put together one of our own — one that tells a story about the cultural moment we're in, but through the lens of fashion?'

"New York did that brilliantly well and now we will be doing it again in London to show our support for the arts. The arts are under threat in the UK and Vogue World will be a timely reminder of how important they are, how vital a part of our lives, and how much they need our support."

Enninful said he was "thrilled" to be co-hosting the event. "British Vogue has been championing fashion, culture, and the magical point where the two intersect for 107 years.

"Now, we're bringing its pages to life with the help of industry-leading talents in order to support the full spectrum of the creative arts in London."

Vogue World: London will take place on September 14.

Bismillah! It was nearly Mongolian Rhapsody

Kieran Gair

Since Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* entered the charts in 1975, critics have wondered what Freddie Mercury was on about. Now new clues to the meaning of a rock classic have been found in a newly unearthed draft.

This shows that Mercury toyed with calling the song Mongolian Rhapsody.

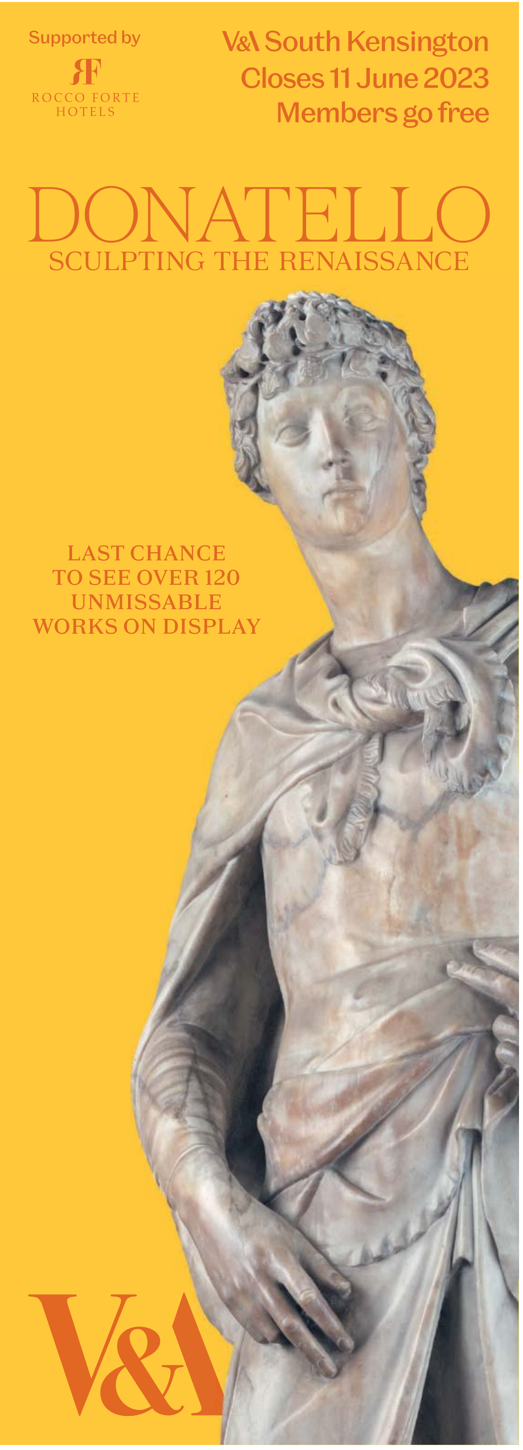
The handwritten draft is among 1,500 Mercury items being auctioned in September by Sotheby's on behalf of his friend and heir Mary Austin, 72. The collection has been kept in Mercury's west London home since his death in 1991.

Among the 15 pages of early drafts for *Bohemian Rhapsody*, on one page Mercury wrote the words Mongolian Rhapsody near the top but crossed the first word out and added Bohemian above it. In the final version of the song, a verse begins with the lines: *Mama/Just killed a man/Put a gun against his head/Pulled my trigger, now he's dead.* However, in an earlier draft, Mercury wrote: *There's a war began/I've got to leave tonight/I've got to stand and fight.*



The word Mongolian appears nowhere else in the drafts, which are estimated to be worth £1.2 million.

Austin will donate part of the proceeds of the sale to the Mercury Phoenix Trust, a charity founded by the surviving members of Queen to fund global HIV/Aids initiatives, and the Elton John Aids Foundation.



News

MAX WILLCOCK/BNPS



A breed apart A petting farm in Poole, Dorset, claims to have a new breed of lamb after a female Shetland sheep entered an enclosure that housed a Valais ram

Quintagram® No 1643

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Long slippery fish (3)

_ _ _

2 (Of eggs) become rotten (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Give in (to) (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Sword's sheath (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Tibetan dog breed (5,4)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
B	C	C	C	D	D	D	E
E	E	H	L	L	L	M	O
P	R	S	S	S	S	U	U

Solutions T2 MindGames P15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames P14

'Eunuch website' plea

The user of a "eunuch-making" website admitted to freezing the leg of a man so that it required amputation. Jacob Crimi-Appleby, 22, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to the grievous bodily harm of Marius Gustavson, 45, who is said to have been the ringleader of a conspiracy involving the removal of body parts. He denies various charges. The case was adjourned.

I'll defend all views, vows professor

Emma Yeomans

Universities face "urgent threats to free speech and academic freedom", Arif Ahmed, the government's new freedom of speech champion has said.

Ahmed pledged to use his new role to stand up for "all views", adding that he was not in the role to join in any culture war nor promote the views of the government.

The Cambridge professor is the first to fill the job, which was announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2021 as part of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill.

As well as championing freedom of expression on campus, Ahmed will be responsible for investigating any infringements of the duties placed on universities to promote freedom of speech.

The bill, which became law on May 11, also includes a new complaints scheme which could result in sanctions for universities that do not uphold freedom of speech within the law.

Ahmed said failures could include no-platforming external speakers, enforcing "ideological" bias training for staff and students, and disciplining lecturers for their social media activity.



Arif Ahmed says no-platforming could be a breach of the law

The DfE has also suggested that universities that use non-disclosure agreements against staff or students who report bullying or abuse could be affected by the bill.

A blogpost by the DfE said: "Students, staff and visiting speakers will be able to bring claims to court if they feel they have suffered loss as a result of their free speech rights being unlawfully restricted."

The complaints scheme has not yet been finalised and the government is still drawing up regulation to enact the bill. When implemented, it is expected to be administered by the Office for Students (OfS) — the independent regulator of higher education in England. Ahmed will become a member of the board of the OfS.

Susan Lapworth, its chief executive, said: "Freedom of speech and academic freedom are essential underpinning principles of higher education in England. Arif's appointment will ensure they continue to be robustly defended."

Claire Coutinho, the children's, families and wellbeing minister, said: "We're making history with the Freedom of Speech Act, ensuring fear does not undermine the rights of students and academics to debate controversial ideas and securing the right to an open exchange of ideas in universities."

Toby Young, founder of the Free Speech Union, which advocates for freedom of expression, said: "[Ahmed's] track record as a defender of free speech and academic freedom is exemplary.

"I'm particularly pleased the new free speech tsar is, broadly speaking, a man of the left. Woke activists on campus need to realise it's in their interests to defend free speech, not just male, pale and stale conservatives."

However, Dr Jo Grady, general secretary of the Universities and Colleges Union, which represents lecturers and staff, said the biggest threat to academic came from the increasing use of casual staff who may not have the freedom to pursue research. She said: "There are serious threats to freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus, but they come from widespread precarious employment practices which strip academics of the ability to speak and research freely. It's clear to anyone paying attention to this government … it has no interest in protecting civil liberties."

A spokeswoman for Universities UK said the sector would welcome Ahmed's appointment: "Universities take their responsibility to protect and promote both free speech and academic freedom seriously."

Profile

University, Arif Ahmed believes, should be "the intellectual equivalent of stepping into a boxing ring" (Emma Yeomans writes).

Ahmed studied maths at Oxford before switching to philosophy at Cambridge. He has been a fellow of Gonville and Caius College since 2015.

He believes that nothing matters more than academic freedom. At the end of 2020 Ahmed led a rebellion against Stephen Toope, then the Cambridge vice-chancellor, who had introduced a free speech policy that required staff and students to treat others and their views with respect. Ahmed drafted an amendment requiring students and staff to tolerate, rather than respect, opposing views. It was passed with a majority of more than 75 per cent.

However, his views have put him at odds with the government. In 2020 he described the Prevent anti-radicalisation legislation as repressive and in an article for the news and opinion website UnHerd last year called the Online Safety Bill "profoundly chilling" for freedom of speech.

Ahmed's father, a psychiatrist, and mother, a nurse, migrated from India in the early 1970s. He was raised a Muslim but became an atheist as a teenager. Frisbee Sheffield, his partner, is an expert on ancient philosophy and they have three daughters.

Seeking the truth is something worth fighting for

Arif Ahmed
Comment

A university is not a club. It is not a political lobby. It is not a seminary. It is not a "brand". It exists to seek and speak truth, whatever it costs and whoever it upsets. Therefore, without freedom to explore controversial or "offensive" ideas, a university is nothing.

These freedoms are worth fighting for, which is why I feel tremendously honoured to have been appointed director for freedom of speech and academic freedom at the Office for Students, the independent regulator of higher education in England. There are urgent threats to free speech and academic freedom in our universities and colleges. We must use all means necessary to address them. Free speech matters beyond the campus. Barack Obama said: "The purpose of … free speech is to make sure we are forced to use argument and reason and words in making our democracy work."

We settle disputes by discussion, not censorship or violence. Today that idea is fading across our institutions. Universities must defend it. Democracy itself is at stake. New legislation means universities and colleges must promote, and take steps to secure, academic freedom and free speech within the law. The regulator will interpret this broadly. Breaches could include: cancelling a talk on women's rights due to internal political pressure, or disciplining a lecturer for provocative anti-monarchist tweets. In response to a breach the regulator can issue fines.

The public sector equality duty means institutions must "have due regard" to the need to achieve certain equality aims. They should be clear about equality implications of their decisions. They must recognise the desirability of achieving equality aims, but in the context of the importance of free speech and academic freedom.

Similarly, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition is an important tool for understanding how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century. Adopting it sends a strong signal to students and staff facing antisemitism. But it must not restrict legitimate political speech and protest. I will act impartially.

I will defend free speech within the law for all views and approaches: post-colonial theory as much as gender critical feminism. Free speech for just one side is not free speech at all. Free speech for all sides benefits all sides. This, not censorship, is the only real engine of both scientific discovery and social progress.

Soaring skylark population gives birders something to sing about

Poppy Koronka

Few British birds have inspired as much artistry as the humble skylark. From Chaucer to Wordsworth — who devoted two poems to the "ethereal minstrel, pilgrim of the sky" — poets, musicians and jazz performers have been influenced by its song.

The decline in its population since the 1970s has therefore prompted concern among ornithologists and artists alike. Yet new research shows their numbers have increased by 20 per cent in some areas in the last five years. The latest Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) found that the skylark's numbers have surged by 10 per cent in the past five years, and 9 per cent in a decade. In some areas, such as the east Midlands and southeast England, their numbers are up by nearly 20 per cent.

The male bird of the species is known for its songs, which are chirped out for up to 20 minutes at a time as they fly to heights of 300m in search of a mate.

The population of the Eurasian skylark, which often nests on the ground in farmland, began to fall in the 1970s and 1980s after a change in farming practices. "This [decline] was mainly driven by agricultural intensification, and really down to the change in the timing of the sowing of the crops," Dawn Balmer, the head of surveys at the BTO, said. "We used to sow a lot of the crops in the spring, which meant the crop was quite small and had lots of gaps, [presenting] fine nesting opportunities [in the breeding season]."

Though skylark numbers have increased significantly in some parts of the UK, Scotland and east England, they have continued to fall in Wales where there has been a 23 per cent decline since 2016.

The recent surge in numbers does not yet make up for the rapid downturn in the 1970s and 1980s, when their population slumped by 75 per cent between 1972 and 1996.

The skylark was not the only bird to show a resurgence. The population of the corn bunting, which also nests on the ground, has risen by 35 per cent in the past decade. While the figures for both species are encouraging, it is too early to tell if the changing farming practices are the reason. These practices include leaving grass strips around fields and even empty "skylark plots" in the middle of fields, which are both areas where the birds can nest.

Dr James Heywood, the BBS national organiser, said: "These positive signs for two iconic farmland species are really encouraging. These signs of hope must not distract us from the fact that many farmland species are still in decline."

The yellowhammer, tree sparrow, grey partridge and turtle dove species all showed steep decreases in population.

Romans recover trafficker's treasures







Artefacts allegedly pillaged by Robin Symes were displayed in Rome after their return

Propped against a wall atop a wooden crate, the ancient Roman painting of a temple drew curious stares from experts in Rome (Tom Kington writes).

"End of the second century AD, start of the third, ripped from a wall in a villa in southern Italy would be my guess," said one.

On the side of the crate someone had written the name of the man who might know the answer: Robin Symes, the 84-year-old disgraced British antiques trafficker who stashed the painting in a warehouse on the outskirts of London until a month ago.

Now the artefact is back in Rome, part of a collection of 821 items worth €12 million (about £10 million) that were recovered from Symes, who has been accused of pillaging Italy's most precious buried treasures for decades and selling them on to collectors and museums.

After years of patient negotiation by Italy, lorries were loaded with treasures at two London warehouses this month. The artefacts included Roman busts, mosaics, a lead sarcophagus decorated with dolphins and sphinxes, gold Etruscan jewellery and a rare 7th-century BC bronze table.

"Symes is a man of a thousand faces," said Vincenzo Molinese, the head of Italy's police heritage unit, who warned during a presentation of the items in Rome that Italy's heritage was being stripped by an "archaeo-mafia".

Symes, who once travelled in a chauffeur-driven Bentley and kept homes in Chelsea and New York, supplied museums such as the Getty in Los Angeles with stunning exhibits until he was accused of teaming up with Italian tomb raiders. The thieves would strip any ancient sites they found.

Massimo Osanna, the director general of museums at Italy's culture ministry, said Symes would "sell items to Sothebys then buy them back at auction himself — it was a form of laundering".

After the Getty was forced to hand back rare items sold to the museum by Symes, in 2016 investigators stumbled on 45 crates of artefacts linked to the trafficker that had been stashed in a warehouse in Geneva. The treasures included frescoes that had been torn from the walls of houses at Pompeii.

Claiming back the hundreds of items stored in London was less dramatic, but far more time-consuming.

"It was a battle and the different legal systems between the UK and Italy didn't help," Molinese said.

Symes's London lock-ups were also packed with 351 items looted from Greece, which has been working with Italy since 2014 to get its artefacts back.

Man arrested over child beach deaths

George Sandeman, Ali Mitib

A man in his forties has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter after two children died after an incident at Bournemouth beach yesterday.

The girl aged 12 and a boy, 17, sustained "critical injuries", according to Dorset police, and died later in hospital.

The force said that it received a request for assistance from the ambulance service at about 4.30pm. Ten people were recovered from the water near Bournemouth Pier, including the two children who died.

The eight others were treated for non-life threatening injuries. The beach had been busy with visitors enjoying temperatures of 23C during the half-term holidays.

A major incident was declared and police began an investigation, working with the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. A man in his forties, who was on the water at the time, was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter yesterday evening.

Steve Larcombe, who works at the pier for a boat trip company, said: "There were six children involved, the police said four were walking and two cardiac arrests." He said that he was not sure if some of them had been jumping off the Victorian pier or were swimming under it at the time.

Witnesses saw lifeguards rush into the water to rescue people and saw CPR being administered to one person on the beach who was later taken to hospital by air ambulance. Two air ambulances and a coastguard helicopter were seen landing on the beach. The fire service and the RNLI also attended.

Nicola Holton, who was at the seaside with her husband, said that the sea became dangerous very quickly with several people needing help. "One lifeguard went to rescue two swimmers struggling but he couldn't bring them in. He spotted another person struggling and a second lifeguard went out to them but there were multiple people in trouble," she said. "The remaining lifeguard was trying to get everyone out of the water. The ambulance service came to the struggling person rescued by the second lifeguard. More lifeguards arrived to rescue another swimmer near the pier. "My husband spotted another swimmer struggling . He ran to the lifeguards. The guard immediately went in and they picked him up on a jet ski. I will never ever get the image out of my head of him being brought out. They cleared the beach for the air ambulance. Then another was spotted and again brought to shore to be worked on. Absolutely horrible.

"Loads of idiots ignoring lifeguard requests to get out of the water and clear the beach. People were running towards those having CPR filming on their phones."



Ten people were pulled from the sea and the beach cleared for the air ambulance

Detective Chief Superintendent Neil Corrigan, of Dorset police, said: "Our thoughts are with the loved ones of the young people who tragically died and we are doing all we can to support their families. I understand the beach was very busy at the time and I would ask anyone with information that may assist our inquiries to please come forward. We are at the early stages of our investigation."

Conor Burns, the MP for Bournemouth West, said the incident was a "salutary lesson" that "danger is ever present" on beaches and the ocean.

ASADOUR GUZELIAN



Hive minding Lyn Ha, of Bradford University, inspects the health of some of the 120,000 bees kept on the campus as part of the university's sustainability goals

Medvedev threatens UK 'targets'

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

British officials are a "legitimate military target" for Russian attacks, a former Russian president has said.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of President Putin's security council, said British military support for Ukraine constituted "an undeclared war against Russia".

Medvedev was responding to comments made by James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, who had defended Ukraine's right to strike military targets in Russia after drone attacks on Tuesday appeared to target some of Moscow's richest suburbs. Some drones were shot down a few kilometres from Putin's residence of Novo-Ogaryovo, where he is believed to spend most of his time. Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, claimed the attacks were an assassination attempt.

Medvedev tweeted: "The goofy officials of the UK, our eternal enemy, should remember that within … international law which regulates modern warfare, including the Hague and Geneva conventions with their additional protocols, their state can also be qualified as being at war," he said.

"Today, the UK acts as Ukraine's ally, providing it with military aid in the form of equipment and specialists. That being the case, any of its public officials (either military, or civil, who facilitate the war) can be considered as a legitimate military target."

Show of unity in Moldova, page 31

Johnson challenges PM to provide texts

Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

Boris Johnson has challenged Rishi Sunak to hand over Johnson's messages and notebooks to the Covid inquiry as ministers brace themselves for the issue to be settled in the courts.

The Cabinet Office has until this afternoon to respond to the inquiry's request for unredacted WhatsApp messages exchanged by the former prime minister and 40 ministers and advisers over a period of more than two years.

The government has insisted that the inquiry, which is set to begin its three years of public hearings in a fortnight, is not allowed to "request unambiguously irrelevant information that is beyond the scope of the investigation". The Cabinet Office has said that its own lawyers should have the power to determine what material is of potential use for the inquiry.

Baroness Hallett, a former Court of Appeal judge who is chairing the inquiry, wants to make her own determination about what is relevant. Yesterday evening Johnson publicly urged Sunak to comply with the inquiry's requests. A spokesman said that Johnson had passed all the material "to the Cabinet Office in full and unredacted form", and that he urged the Cabinet Office to "urgently disclose it to the inquiry".

The spokesman said that Johnson "would immediately disclose it directly to the inquiry if asked".

If today's deadline passes without a resolution, Hallett can refer the matter to the courts. The government could also seek a judicial review of her demands.

Lord Saville of Newdigate, a retired Supreme Court justice who chaired the 12-year inquiry into Bloody Sunday, said the Cabinet Office's approach was "very questionable".

He told The Times: "It's the inquiry's business to decide what's relevant, and no one else's."

Saville said that during the course of his inquiry he had dealt with "quite a lot" of national security documents. "The way we dealt with that was that we were allowed to go and read it and to decide whether or not it was relevant, and also to make a decision as to whether or not it should be put in the public domain," he said. "There seem to me to be at least two major principles for anyone running a public inquiry. They are that it should be thorough and it should be fair.

"As far as thoroughness is concerned, one can see immediately where Heather Hallett is coming from because she's obviously intent — and she's a very, very good judge indeed — on doing a thorough job.

"Looking at it from the point of view of someone who did a public inquiry, you really have got to be thorough because if you're not it involves an enormous waste of time and money."

Lord Sumption, another former Supreme Court justice, said he expected that the government would be defeated in the courts.

"If [Hallett] concludes that it is in the public interest that something within her terms of reference should be disclosed, I frankly can't see the courts quashing her decision," he told the BBC.

He said that the government was "not going to succeed in a judicial review, so all they will achieve by resisting is to make it look as if they are hiding something".

He added: "I think it would be both a political mistake and a legal buffer."

Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, said that the government had already released 55,000 documents and that it "totally gets the importance" of the inquiry. He told Times Radio: "Certainly the government has absolutely nothing to hide."



Boris Johnson said he gave the Cabinet Office his material "in full"

Five to decide future of sex education in schools

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

A government adviser who backs fertility lessons through TikTok, the boss of an academy chain in partnership with Eton and the barrister behind the report into antisemitism in the Labour Party are to lead a review of sex education in schools.

The government has announced the full independent panel that will help draw up guidance on what should be taught in relationships, sex and health education lessons.

Rishi Sunak announced the review in March in response to reports that pupils were being taught things inappropriate for their age. The panel will be expected to advise by the new school year which topics should be subject to age restrictions.

Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, said: "The wellbeing and safeguarding of children is our absolute priority and I share the concerns of parents and teachers about reports that inappropriate lessons are being taught in schools."

The independent panel includes Alasdair Henderson, a barrister and commissioner for the Equality and Human Rights Commission who led the investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Henderson, who specialises in human rights and equality law, said last year in a discussion about cases involving so-called gender-critical beliefs that employers needed to follow the law rather than "the recommendations of campaign groups or the personal views of diversity and inclusion advisers".

He was criticised for liking and sharing tweets including one that said the words misogynist and homophobe were "ideological propaganda terms".

Dame Lesley Regan, who was appointed last year as the first women's health ambassador, will also sit on the panel. She has suggested that young women should be able to watch TikTok videos to warn them about fertility.

Last year, she said that she had always worked in an "inclusive" way with transgender people, but added: "I don't think it's reasonable to remove the word woman."

Sir Hamid Patel, the chief executive of Star Academies, will chair the group. He said that the panel would offer insight into how the curriculum could be "age-appropriate" and "objective". Patel's chain of academies has teamed up with Eton to open elite sixth forms in the north of England.

Helena Brothwell, of the David Ross Education Trust, and Isabelle Trowler, the chief social worker for England, are also on the panel.

Miriam Cates, the Tory MP who led calls for the review said she was "delighted" the panel had been appointed. She said: "There is a mounting body of evidence that some schools are using extreme, factually incorrect, age-inappropriate and politically contentious materials with little understanding of the consequences."

The review — the first since statutory guidance came into force in 2020 — aims to offer teachers "clarity on how to teach sensitive subjects and engage parents positively". As well as sex education, it will include new or additional content on mental health, suicide prevention, vaping and tackling violence against women and girls. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

ITV boss asks barrister to investigate Schofield affair

Alex Farber, Peter Chappell

ITV has appointed a barrister to review all the facts surrounding Phillip Schofield's affair with a younger colleague.

Dame Carolyn McCall, ITV's chief executive, wrote to Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, Dame Melanie Dawes, head of the television regulator Ofcom, and Dame Caroline Dinenage, chairwoman of the culture committee, yesterday to inform them that Jane Mulcahy KC would examine the broadcaster's records, talk to those involved and assess whether its duty-of-care guidelines needed strengthening.

Schofield and YMU Group, his former management company, are expected to be among those called to give evidence. In her letter, McCall said the broadcaster felt "badly let down" by its former star. The ambition is for the investigation to be conducted as quickly as possible, and insiders expect Mulcahy to report back within weeks. They highlighted that the review had been commissioned less than 48 working hours after Schofield, 61, resigned from the broadcaster for his "unwise, but not illegal" relationship.

Mulcahy is considered ideal for the role, having represented the England and Wales Cricket Board over the highly sensitive Yorkshire cricket racism hearing. Details of the review emerged as a showreel of the TV runner with whom Schofield had a relationship came to light. It was recorded at the *This Morning* studio in 2015.

Obtained by the Daily Mail, the four-minute video opens with the *This Morning* music, before following the runner as he emerges from the lifts and walks past framed pictures of the show's presenters then interviews Schofield. The pair discuss "singing in the shower" before the younger man tells the star: "I think you are doing very well. You are getting away with it, managing to keep it going."

In her letter, McCall said that ITV had reviewed its records over the weekend before deciding to bring in the legal expert. McCall has also confirmed that the runner was 19 when he started work experience at *This Morning* in 2020, before securing a job the following year.

"As you would imagine given the social media scrutiny of him, we have offered him our support throughout this period," McCall added. She also revealed that ITV continued to investigate rumours about the relationship since they began in late 2019, when they were denied by both men.

"Given the ongoing rumours, we continued to ask questions of both parties, who both continued to deny them, including as recently as this month," she said. "We consider our approach was … proportionate at the time and in the circumstances. We believe we did not have any grounds to mount any other sort of investigation."

Talks are under way about whether McCall will appear in front of Dinenage's select committee next week amid speculation it could also summon Schofield. One member said the former breakfast show star may be called to give evidence. "Some people have queried whether MPs should be looking into this but that misses the point. There have been serious allegations of … grooming at the country's biggest commercial broadcaster."

Nadine Dorries, the former culture secretary, demanded the government launch an independent inquiry. "Transparency and full disclosure is the only way," she tweeted. Separately, the maker of Schofield's wine brand ended its partnership. The company, When in Rome, launched the Phillip Schofield brand of wines in 2020, sold in Waitrose. It has scrubbed its website of any mention of the product or Schofield. When in Rome did not respond to requests for comment.

On Monday the Prince's Trust, the youth charity founded by the King, cut ties with Schofield. A spokesman said: "In light of Phillip's recent admissions we have agreed with him that it is no longer appropriate to work together."



The maker of Phillip Schofield's wine brand has ended their partnership, removing any mention of him from its website

Poor Britons feel they're the sick men of the world

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

British people consider their overall health to be among the worst in the world, an international survey revealed.

The report by Edelman, a marketing consultancy firm, questioned 13,000 people in 13 countries in March about their health and how much trust they placed in national healthcare systems.

Only 37 per cent of Britons described their health as "very good or better", below the global average of 46 per cent, and this disparity widened among those on low incomes. Some 29 per cent of people in the UK on low incomes said their health was very good, compared with 36 per cent on middle incomes and 53 per cent on high incomes.

Poorer Britons rated their health worse than those on low incomes in almost all major countries, including Canada, the US and India. This was blamed on the UK's unhealthy environment, poor housing and fast food. Poor health has been blamed for the UK's slow recent economic growth, with a record 2.6 million people off work with long-term sickness.

Long NHS waiting lists and difficulties seeing a GP mean that only 44 per cent of people in the UK agreed that the national healthcare system was doing well in keeping them healthy. The report said the cost of living was increasingly acting as a barrier to good health, with 71 per cent of people in the UK saying inflation was harming them.

Eleanor Read, the managing director of health at Edelman UK, said: "Cost is a huge barrier to looking after health. It includes healthy options, like buying fresh vegetables, or gym memberships, as well as over-the-counter treatments and prescription costs."

Read said that factors such as loneliness and having a healthy social life and community were playing an increasingly important role in people's health.

A growing number of people are turning to their employers for health provisions, with 70 per cent saying their employer should play a "meaningful role" in keeping them healthy.

The study also asked people which healthcare professionals they trusted most, with nurses coming top with 82 per cent. The trust level for pharmacists has risen to 80 per cent, meaning they now outrank doctors.

Crook flashed fake police ID for thefts

David Woode Crime Correspondent

A Romanian thief posed as a police officer and stole from tourists hours after he arrived in London, a court was told.

Nicolae Macovei, 60, flashed a fake warrant card and demanded his victims produce cash and their passports at Paddington station on March 5.

Southwark crown court was told that Macovei and three other men had prowled west London looking for targets and chanced on a Malaysian couple, Roney Ku and Lee Hung, and their two adult children.

Laura Jeffrey, for the prosecution, said the family were approached by a man offering help, which they refused. Further down the street they were approached by a different man who led them into a side street.

Jeffrey said: "A third male and the defendant approached the family. It was at this point they identified themselves as police officers. Mr Macovei got out an ID card from a plastic wallet from his inner jacket pocket, he flashed it briefly at the family, then asked to see the family's passports and their money."

Macovei discarded the Malaysian currency and ordered the family to hand over their pounds and euros, the court was told. The men then made off with their cash.

Hung gave chase and recovered the money when the thieves dropped it. Macovei was arrested and during a search, police found an ID card in his own name and a small UV torch.

Francesca Hallett, Macovei's barrister, said in mitigation that her client was "very sorry" for his actions, adding: "He [appears] to be a man who is considerably remorseful."

The court was told that Macovei ran a small business with his family fostering stray dogs and earned €400 (£345) per month. He had convictions for theft in Germany, Denmark and London in 2013 and 2015 and arrived in Britain days before the crime.

Macovei, of no fixed address, admitted theft and possession of an article for use in fraud and was jailed for two years and three months.

Judge Daniel Fugallo told Macovei that he had played a leading role in the crime, adding: "You and your fellow criminals intended to intimidate others to comply with your demands. You tried to lure a family into the trap you had set for them.

"'I have absolutely no doubt that you and your colleagues waiting near Paddington station was with a view of identifying tourists unlikely to have English as their first language, in order for them to be taken in by your deception."

The court was told that a further charge of theft and one of impersonating a constable were left to lie on file.

Try using mindfulness app, doctor told girl with cancer

George Sandeman

Doctors who failed to spot a rare and aggressive form of cancer in a schoolgirl suggested that she try using a mindfulness app to deal with pain that left her screaming, her family claim.

Olivia Maunder, 15, noticed a pain in her lower back in November 2020 and visited her GP in January 2021. An MRI scan was performed at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, in March 2021 but doctors did not find a tumour.

In the following months she was taken to A&E several times but persistently told nothing could be done. Her mother, Carol Rolfe, 52, told the Daily Mail: "She was screaming in pain, but we were asked: 'Have you tried a mindfulness app?'"

Olivia, who lives with her family in Bordon, Hampshire, said: "I was even told that I was mirroring my mum's pain as she had had back problems."

Eventually, another MRI scan was performed and a tumour the size of a tennis ball was found on Olivia's pelvis. She was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma in June 2021 and told that the cancer was so extensive that surgery was not an option. She underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

In April 2022 Olivia returned home after going into remission but was told in November that the cancer had returned. Olivia's family, who are raising funds to make her last months as enjoyable as possible, have instructed solicitors to take action against the hospital.

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust apologised for the delay in diagnosing the cancer.

RAF payout after 'useless white pilots' claim

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

The RAF will pay compensation to 31 men whose training was delayed because of a diversity drive during which staff were told to stop arranging courses for "useless white male pilots".

Recruitment officers wanted to suspend selection boards until more women and ethnic minority candidates could be found, emails leaked to The Daily Telegraph show.

In an email from January 19, 2021, Squadron Leader Andrew Harwin wrote to a colleague to discuss the make-up of the boards, which place recruits on training courses. Harwin, who worked in the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre, said: "I noted that the boards have recently been predominantly white male heavy. If we don't have enough BAME [black, Asian and minority ethnic] and females to board then we need to make the decision to pause boarding and seek more BAME and females from the RAF.

"I don't really need to see loads of useless white male pilots, let's get as focused as possible, I am more than happy to reduce boarding if needed to have a balanced BAME/female/male board."

The RAF has confirmed that it will pay compensation to 31 white male pilots whose courses were delayed. Each pilot will receive £5,000, according to Sky News.

The RAF said: "We will continue doing everything we can to increase our recruiting intake from under-represented groups within the provisions of the law. All individuals joining the RAF were and are selected on merit and any individuals that were advanced to their training courses had already passed the selection process."

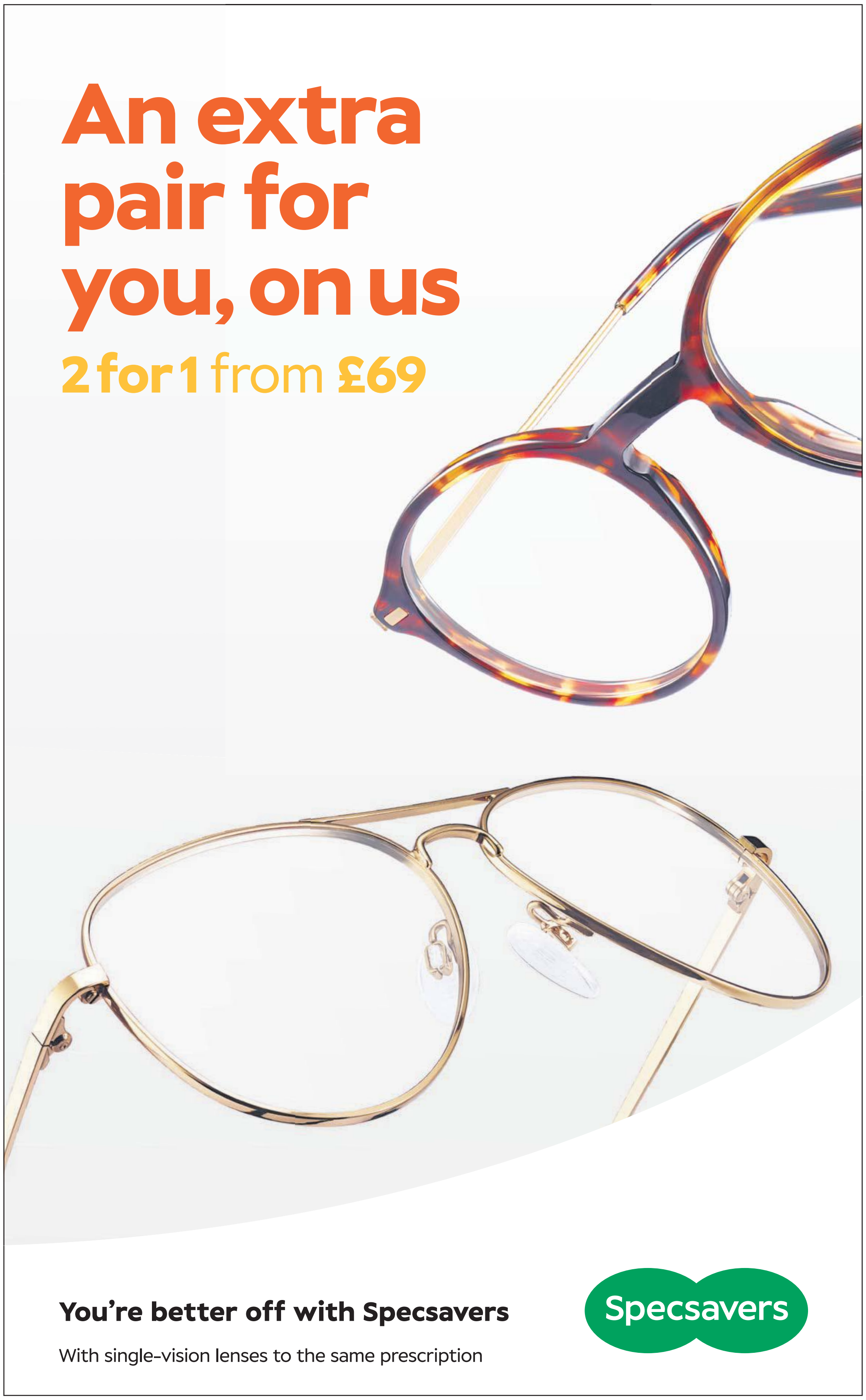
Meanwhile, soldiers, sailors and aviators who suffered under homophobic laws have said that they underwent "forced treatment" in military hospitals and were interrogated about their sexuality. Research carried out by Northumbria University on behalf of Fighting With Pride, the LGBT military charity, has reported the lifelong impact that the so-called gay ban has had on thousands of personnel.

Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1967 but those in the armed forces who were identified as gay faced dismissal, loss of pension and even imprisonment, as well as invasive medical examinations, until January 2000.

The research comes before the publication of the government-commissioned LGBT Veterans' Independent Review report. One veteran said that at a medical centre he was told: "Because we think you're gay, we need to have a medical exam." A reserve officer was ordered to check for "a reflex of your sphincter", prompting them both to cry. Others said that they were forced to take powerful anti-psychotic drugs.

Fighting With Pride's Craig Jones, a former naval officer, and Caroline Paige, a former RAF officer, said: "The visceral hurt caused by the illegal and cruel ban is heartbreaking."

A government spokesman said: "We are proud of our LGBT+ veterans and grateful for their service ... We can confirm that Lord Etherton has concluded his independent review and submitted his report to the government."



Cannot be used with any other offers. Second pair from the same price range or below. Both pairs include standard 1.5 single-vision lenses (or 1.6 for £169 Rimless ranges). Varifocal/bifocal: pay for lenses in first pair only. Excludes SuperDigital, SuperDrive varifocals, SuperReaders 1-2-3 occupational lenses and safety eyewear. Additional charge – Extra Options.

COLIN BALDWIN



Fighting With Pride's Caroline Paige, a former RAF officer, and Craig Jones, a former naval officer, at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day two years ago

University leaders warn funding model is broken

Emma Yeomans

The tuition fee model of university funding is "broken" and a third of institutions face financial deficits, vice-chancellors have said.

Universities face a double financial threat from tuition fees, which have not been raised in a nearly a decade, and government proposals that will deter international students.

Under proposals announced last week, foreign students will be barred from bringing dependants with them unless they are studying on research programmes, such as doctorates or research-intensive master's courses.

Vice-chancellors have said the limits, which are designed to reduce immigration, will mean universities losing out on lucrative international fees.

Professor Charlie Jeffery, the vice-chancellor of the University of York, said record inflation meant universities were losing money.

He told The Guardian: "That's a difficult place to be at the best of times, and it does require us to think of the other income streams that can help us achieve all of our objectives. By far the most significant one of those is international students. And, therefore, it adds to the pressure if you see changes in policy which might undermine the UK's attractiveness to international students."

Universities increasingly depend on the fees paid by international students, which can be more than double those paid by home students.

Tuition fees were raised to £9,000 in 2012 and to £9,250 in 2016 but have remained the same since. In January, the Department for Education said that they would remain frozen for at least two years.

Professor Chris Husbands, the vice-chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, said that raising fees was not a sustainable solution for higher education. "It's not the way to go for students," he said. "So the solution has got to be a hybrid public-private model, possibly based on a teaching grant for higher-cost subjects, underpinned by loans which could be set at the cost of teaching lower-cost subjects, plus a maintenance offer for poor students."

Universities UK data found that the proportion of English universities reporting an in-year deficit increased from 5 per cent in 2015–16 to 32 per cent in 2019–20.

RICK FINDLER/STORY PICTURE AGENCY; JUSTIN NG/AVALON





Just Stop Oil protesters, left and below, were arrested in Parliament Square and taken away by police



Just Stop Oil has staged protests in London every day since the end of April and has said it will continue indefinitely

Crackdown on slow marches that halt traffic is weeks away

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

New police powers to stop protesters who use slow-walking tactics to bring traffic to a standstill will not be in place until the end of the month.

The legislation is aimed at allowing officers to intervene immediately and halt protesters from groups including Just Stop Oil (JSO), which has been marching in central London every day for more than five weeks.

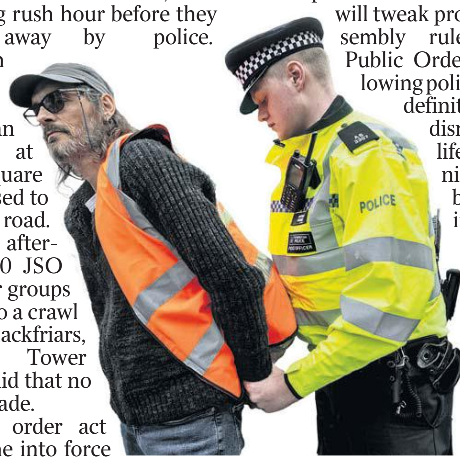
The average time it takes for police to remove slow-walking protesters is now between 13 and 19 minutes, according to the Home Office.

Although the government brought in new powers to stop protesters causing disruption by "locking on" and glueing themselves to roads, more legislation is needed to tackle the newer phenomenon of slow walking.

This is being rushed through, but is not expected to be on the statute book for several weeks. JSO has held demonstrations every day since April 24 and has said it will carry on until the government stops granting new licences for gas, coal and oil.

On Wednesday morning activists blocked the A4 in Barons Court, west London, during rush hour before they were dragged away by police. Another ten supporters were detained by Metropolitan Police officers at Parliament Square after they refused to move out of the road.

On Tuesday afternoon nearly 70 JSO activists in four groups slowed traffic to a crawl Waterloo, Blackfriars, London and Tower bridges. JSO said that no arrests were made.



New public order act legislation came into force last month, introducing new offences for locking-on and being equipped for locking-on, causing serious disruption by tunnelling, and obstructing transport works.

The powers to combat slow walking will tweak procession and assembly rules under the Public Order Act 1986, allowing police to use a wider definition of "serious disruption to the life of the community". Officers will be able to take into account the cumulative impact of repeated or concurrent protests caused by slow-walking tactics over several days, rather than having to consider each on its individual impact, when deciding whether intervention is warranted.

There will also be a wider meaning of "community", meaning that the people affected by the protests are not only those who live or work in the vicinity of the action. Protests will also be shut down when they cause traffic jams even in areas where traffic congestion is common. The burden that protests impose on police resources and time can also be taken into account.

The threshold for what constitutes "serious disruption to the life of the community" will be changed from causing "significant delay and prolonged disruption" to a "delay that is more than minor".

The changes are being made through a statutory instrument, which is secondary legislation that does not require the same amount of parliamentary scrutiny as primary legislation.

However, the new "serious disruption to the life of the community" regulation must still be approved by both houses of parliament, and it is not expected to be voted on until the middle of the month. The police will need to update guidance before the new powers will be operational, meaning that they are not expected to be available to be used until the end of the month.

The new powers are likely to cause controversy because the changes were proposed by the government as part of its Public Order Act 2023 but were defeated by the House of Lords.

Liberty campaigners and opposition parties have argued that the changes will give the police too much arbitrary power to decide when to intervene and make arrests.

The Home Office said that decisions on how to respond to individual Just Stop Oil protests would be for the police. A spokeswoman said: "A handful of selfish individuals should not be able to bring our roads to a halt day after day, and people must be able to go about their lives freely."

Solar firm accused of forced labour link

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

The company planning to build Britain's largest solar farm is facing questions about alleged links to forced labour in China and claims that it offered inducements to an MP to back the scheme.

Canadian Solar is applying for planning permission to build a 2,100-acre solar plant in Rutland, which would be eight times bigger than the UK's largest solar plant and provide power to more than 92,000 homes.

But the company, which makes 80 per cent of its solar panels in China, has been accused of accused of links to a firm implicated in the forced transfer of Uighurs to factories in Xinjiang.

Four shipments from Canadian Solar were seized in the US two years ago as part of an investigation into goods with links to forced labour in Xinjiang. Shareholders have demanded an investigation into the supply chain. The company has denied the claims and said it had appointed an outside body to carry out a "due diligence audit" to prove that there were no human rights and forced labour issues in its operations or supply chain.

The company set up a UK subsidiary in 2019. The Mallard Pass project in Rutland, which is going through the planning process, is its first large-scale scheme in this country. It has attracted opposition, backed by the Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, Alicia Kearns, who has described the plan as "inappropriate" because it would mainly be built on agricultural land.

The Times has been told that a representative of Canadian Solar contacted a member of staff working for Kearns with what appeared to be an offer of inducements to support the project.

In a contemporaneous note they said it had been suggested that there could be "time for a conversation to be had around Canadian Solar investing some money into the local community". He said that could include funding for "a hospital, schools or directly to the worst-affected residents". The note said that this was "something 'we' have done before" and that it allowed MPs to "get something despite an unpopular development going through".

Kearns described the approach as "at best inappropriate" and said it reinforced her wider concerns. She said: "Canadian Solar has had shipments seized by the US government, seen its suppliers sanctioned in the US, faced shareholder action to deselect its board members for an unwillingness to root out forced labour in their supply chains, and has now been found guilty of tariff dodging by the US."

Canadian Solar said that it "strongly condemned the illegal practice of forced labour". It said it had appointed the Responsible Business Alliance to conduct an independent audit of its supply chain and hoped to make the findings public. The company said that it had discussed an "opportunity" for Kearns to engage with it about investment by Canadian Solar in local projects but added: "No inducements were made, intentional or otherwise."

Protesters are brave, says Starmer's £1.5m donor

George Grylls Political Correspondent

A businessman who has donated £1.5 million to the Labour Party has defended his decision to also fund Just Stop Oil.

Asked why he gave money to the protest group, which has targeted major events including the Chelsea Flower Show and the World Snooker Championship, Dale Vince said: "Because there's a greater harm being done in the world by the burning of fossil fuels. Sometimes laws are unjust. And when that happens, people have to stand up and do something about it."

Vince, the founder of Ecotricity, promised to match any donation given to Just Stop Oil by the public for 48 hours. He praised the "brave people" who were "slow marching, causing disruption and risking their freedom to save us from the climate crisis".

Conservative politicians including Jacob Rees-Mogg have called on Labour to return Vince's donations. Rees-Mogg said Labour's recent announcement that it would ban new oil and gas drilling in the North Sea showed that the party's "paymasters" were "fanatics who want us to be cold and poor".

Vince, 61, who conceded that he had spoken to Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, for the second time last week, accused the Conservative Party of "desperate" mudslinging.

"I think this is a lot of fuss by the right-wing media," he said. "It's an attempt to throw mud … because of the polls in the coming election. I think they're afraid and they're desperate."

He denied influencing Starmer's policymaking, saying: "There's a link insofar as I support the Labour Party because of their green agenda, and actually not delivering new oil and gas in the North Sea is an important part of anybody's green agenda."

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Boy, 12, died while helping father demolish garage wall

Laurence Sleator

A 12-year-boy who was helping his father to knock down a garage wall died when it collapsed on top of them, an inquest has been told.

Scott-Swaley Stevens died at his home in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, on October 21 last year.

His father, Scott Stevens, survived but sustained a broken arm.

Essex coroner's court was told that the pair were renovating the home in preparation to sell it, and after eating a fish and chip supper had gone out to inspect the wall. In a statement, Stevens told the police that he "rocked" the wall to push it over, but it fell back on them "within seconds".



Scott-Swaley Stevens was crushed by the weight of the wall

He said he believed that they were "trapped under the wall for the next two hours but no one could hear us". However, Charmaine Lee, Scott-Swaley's mother, said she believed it was much less time than this.

Detective Inspector James Hardingham said that the police were called by the fire service at 6.56pm and that Scott-Swaley was pronounced dead at the scene by 7.03pm. His father was released from the rubble by 7.38pm.

Hardingham said that Lee's daughter had raised the alarm, going inside and shouting to her mother: "Help, Mum, Daddy and Swaley are trapped under the wall." Lee then ran to the fire station next door shouting: "Help, my baby is trapped," the inquest was told. She also began flagging down passing drivers to help the family and knocking on neighbours' doors.

People were "frantically trying to move the rubble" when the fire crew arrived, Simon Tarrant, a firefighter, said in a statement.

Lincoln Brookes, the senior coroner for Essex, recorded that Scott-Swaley died of compression asphyxia after the wall collapsed on him.

"The weight of the wall put such pressure on his chest that his heart couldn't work properly," he said. "His blood couldn't reach his brain, he went unconscious and died."

He added it was an "extraordinarily tragic accident. He was a 12-year-old boy with his whole life ahead of him."

In a statement released after Scott-Swaley's death, his family paid tribute to the youngster.

"As a family, we cannot explain the hurt we feel and we are broken," they said.

"Our Swaley was a well-loved boy who had friends not only in Clacton, but also in Dartford and Wickford, and will be missed by so many."

Books boom as pandemic's new readers stay hooked

Katie Prescott

The Harry Potter publisher Bloomsbury has reported its best ever financial results as people turn to reading as a more affordable type of entertainment in hard times.

Its bestsellers included *A Day of Fallen Night* by Samantha Shannon, Tom Kerridge's *Real Life Recipes* and the Throne of Glass series by Sarah J Maas.

The London-listed business announced record sales for the year to February, up 15 per cent to £264.1 million, and its profits rose 16 per cent to £31.1 million as the public's passion for books continued, boosted by the pandemic. Sales are up by 43 per cent from two years ago and profits up by 62 per cent. Bloomsbury's final dividend was up 10 per cent, at 10.34 pence a share.

Nigel Newton, the chief executive, said: "During the 1991 economic downturn books continued to prosper, and this time they are turbo-supercharged because so many people locked up at home for so long turned to books and loved the experience, and are still reading like mad."

Bloomsbury was founded by Newton in 1986. Not long after it was floated in 1994, he received a manuscript from JK Rowling's agent that had been rejected by rivals, and wrote a cheque to the author for £2,500. The resulting Harry Potter books transformed the publisher's fortunes and the franchise continues to thrive.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was the third-bestselling children's book in the UK last year, 26 years after it was first published, and in April HBO announced a new television series in which a season will be dedicated to each of the seven books. Bloomsbury is publishing a Harry Potter almanack for the first time this year. Other planned spin-offs from the company's work this year include a Bollywood version of William Dalrymple's *The Anarchy*, about the East India Company.

Physical books remain overwhelmingly popular, making up 70 per cent of Bloomsbury's sales against 13 per cent from eBooks and 2 per cent from audiobooks. Three quarters of its sales came from overseas.

Newton dismissed the threat of general artificial intelligence to the publishing industry, saying that people would not want to read books written by robots. "Most of our authors are towering names in their fields," he said. "I draw an analogy with home-brand foods in supermarkets — there's a need for them, but there is still a huge market for brand names. People want Tom Kerridge's book on pub food, not something written by a bot."

Bloomsbury had revenue growth of 40 per cent in its digital resources division, which focuses on academic and professional publications, often sold on subscription to university libraries.

To help with the cost of living, the company made a one-off cost of living payment to its staff of £1,250, along with a permanent salary increase of £1,000 a year.

Picks for the summer

Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age by Tom Holland (Abacus)
A sweeping, colourful history of Rome at its swaggering, superpower zenith by The Rest is History podcaster and bestselling author. Hail Caesar! Hail Tom Holland!

Soldier Sailor by Claire Kilroy (Faber)
A funny, raw, beautifully observed tale of a mother who isn't coping with her baby. In with a shout of winning the Booker prize.

Killing Moon by Jo Nesbo (Harvill Secker)
The creaking detective Harry Hole has to catch a weirdo killer (who uses parasites to control his victims) and save a fading starlet.

Ordinary Human Failings by Megan Nolan (Jonathan Cape)
A hungry young tabloid reporter wheedles his way into the confidence of a troubled Irish family who are at the centre of a terrible crime. Megan Nolan is one of the brightest young things around.

As chosen by Robbie Millen, literary editor

PETER BYRNE/PA



Chris Martin exuded wholesome enthusiasm at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, running along the stage in ecstasy

Coldplay rediscover their purpose in spiritual home

Pop Will Hodgkinson

Coldplay
Etihad Stadium, Manchester
★★★★☆

As the world's biggest environmentally conscious stadium fillers, the last few years have been odd for Coldplay. After taking a brave turn toward social realism with 2019's *Everyday Life*, they went the other way with 2021's *Music of the Spheres*. An album so cravenly commercial it may as well have been sold with a free pack of Coldplay action figures, it was a clear bid to appeal to a younger audience, guest spots from the Korean boy band BTS and the pop diva Selena Gomez included. It seemed like a loss of confidence. In their spiritual home of a vast stadium, however, this hugely popular band had clear purpose once more.

With Chris Martin exuding the kind of wholesome enthusiasm you just don't get from, say, Jimmy Page, Coldplay in Manchester seemed very much a band for the modern age. There was a kinetic floor that created energy, (compostable) light up wristbands to create an ecologically pure spectacle, and Martin, the Christian youth group Mick Jagger, running along the vast stage in ecstasy to *Higher Power*. It is a special skill to sit cross legged and lead 60,000 people through *Paradise*. Very few front men can bring this level of positivity to this many people. It was impossible not to be uplifted by it.

"Welcome to show number 84," said Martin in a quiet moment of *The Scientist*, emphasising the scale of the operation, before claiming the first 83 were mere rehearsals to ensure this one was fantastic; an example of Martin throwing the love out and getting it chucked straight back, as was pulling a woman out of the crowd who requested the piano ballad *Green Eyes* and playing it while sat beside her.

A rendition of *What's Love Got To Do With It*, featuring Lauren Mayberry of Chvrches on vocals, was a nice Tina Turner tribute; *Yellow*, with its shimmering riff displayed how Coldplay at their best really have come up with some Neil Young-like, soft rocking classics. It was accompanied, naturally, by a sea of yellow wristbands.

That was before the horrible Disney rave of *Hymn For The Weekend* and, worse, the vaguely sinister pop banger *My Universe*. Both were an examples of Coldplay's excessive populism, yet Martin's ability to bring a sense of togetherness was undeniable. "Home is the best place after all," said Martin, before fireworks lit up the sky for *A Head Full of Stars* and Martin brought back memories of the student union by making everyone sing *Sit Down* by Manchester's own James. That's how to send them home happy.

Etihad Stadium, Manchester, June 1, 3, 4, Principality stadium, Cardiff, June 6, 7

News

Police may face manslaughter charges over crash

David Woode Crime Correspondent
Barry Keevins

Two Sussex police officers could face charges of manslaughter and perverting the course of justice after a pedestrian was knocked down and killed during a chase.

Arthur Hölscher-Ermert, 27, had been pursued by a black BMW which swerved into him as he crossed a road in Peacehaven, East Sussex, on April 30 last year.

Video purportedly showed Hölscher-Ermert groaning while officers restrained him as he lay dying on the road. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) examined the incident and told two officers, who have not been named, that they were the subject of a criminal investigation.

The officer driving the car was advised that they were under investigation for causing death by dangerous driving and later the offence of "unlawful act manslaughter". The second officer has been told that they were being investigated for perverting the course of justice.

The police watchdog confirmed that it had passed evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service, which will decide whether to issue charges. Both officers remain on duty but are not in roles dealing with the public. Professor Jens Hölscher, the victim's father, welcomed the development after an "agonising wait of 397 days".

He said: "It's good news in principle and at least we got there. You never know what the CPS decision will be but I welcome this and I am relieved."

The IOPC said that the officers had been told about the developments but emphasised that its referral of evidence to the CPS did not necessarily mean criminal charges would follow.

Mel Palmer, the watchdog's regional director, said: "Following the conclusion of our investigation and after carefully considering the evidence, we have decided there is an indication that both officers may have committed a criminal offence. It will now be for the CPS to determine whether charges should be brought and, if so, what charges those should be.

"We have informed the family of Arthur Hölscher-Ermert and have kept them updated throughout our investigation. Our sympathies remain with everyone affected by this incident."





The death of Arthur Hölscher-Ermert, right, has raised questions for his family, including his brother Karl, above with his girlfriend Keri Thomas

Investigators said that Hölscher-Ermert had got out of an Audi after being pursued by a police vehicle. It is believed that his car was flagged on police cameras but the reason why officers pursued him has not been revealed.

Moments later he was struck by the unmarked police car as he tried to cross a road. Witnesses claimed that officers tried to handcuff him despite his distress. As officers performed CPR, a bystander shouted: "You've killed him."

Hölscher said it "still hurts" that Sussex police had not acknowledged the actions that led to his son's death.

Speaking to The Times to mark the first anniversary of the killing, he said: "It's something you would expect, I can't do much about it. I asked a friend, a former policeman, and he said they [Sussex police] will not say sorry because they see that as an admission of guilt."

Sussex police said: "We have supported the independent investigation and continue to offer our full co-operation. We await the outcome of the decision by the CPS and will take appropriate action in response to the IOPC report which we have now received. As this remains a live criminal investigation, we are unable to comment further. The two serving officers remain on duty with appropriate restrictions in place, which remain subject to regular review while we await the decision by the CPS."



Airbnb shares data on hosts with HMRC

Ben Clatworthy Travel Correspondent

Airbnb hosts face a tax investigation from HM Revenue & Customs spanning six years of income information.

The holiday-let platform has been forced to share its users' income details with HMRC as part of an investigation into missing tax receipts.

Property owners could face criminal prosecution and penalties of up to 30 per cent of the tax owed if they are found to have failed to pay income duties, experts said.

HMRC is understood to have sent 800 letters to people who it suspects have not paid enough tax. They are designed to remind users that they must disclose rental income. Tax experts said the approach represented a marked change in tone by the taxman which has previously only "nudged" people to declare rental income.

Richard Morley, a partner at HW Fisher, the accountancy firm, said the crackdown indicated how concerned the taxman was about people using platforms but not declaring income.

He told The Daily Telegraph: "It's a massive area of risk for HMRC, the whole question of property and rental income that's received. Getting information from the likes of Airbnb will be a bit of a goldmine."

Airbnb said: "Airbnb partners with industry experts across the UK to help hosts understand and follow tax rules. We also work with HMRC to share information and help ensure that UK authorities receive the taxes they are due, in accordance with UK laws."

HMRC said: "Each year we send out thousands of reminder letters on various areas of tax."

British team creates first liver dialysis

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Thousands of people dying of sudden liver failure could be saved every year after British scientists created the first "liver dialysis" treatment.

The University College London team invented a machine that performs the functions of a liver, including removing harmful substances from the blood. In a trial on 32 patients with liver disease, or cirrhosis, the device — called Dialive — was able to reverse acute onset liver failure in twice as many patients as those on existing treatments.

The scientists will hold a larger clinical trial, and hope it could be available on the NHS in three years.

This would provide treatment for about 15,000 patients a year in the UK whose livers stop working, a condition that is incurable and often causes a quick death. Dialysis is a technique to clean the blood of harmful substances, and is standard for those with kidney failure, who must undergo dialysis for several hours a day in order to live.

But because the liver has a unique ability to regenerate itself, researchers expect liver dialysis to provide greater long-term benefits than for kidneys.

Dr Banwari Agarwal, who led the trial, said: "The intervention has the potential to transform the care provided to the ever-increasing number of patients and their families suffering from the effects of living with what is essentially a terminal illness for many. It has the potential to transform the therapeutic options available to clinicians across the world."

The study is published in The Journal of Hepatology.

And just like that, Cattrall's back

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

Kim Cattrall is set to reprise her role as Samantha Jones in the *Sex and the City* revival.

In news that will delight fans of the classic show, Cattrall will appear in a single scene of the forthcoming second season of the reboot while having a phone conversation with Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie Bradshaw, according to Variety.

Liverpool-born Cattrall, 66, famously had a falling out with Parker and did not take part in the first season of *And Just Like That*, the television follow-up to *Sex and the City*, which aired in 2021.

However, she has agreed to a partial comeback, with Variety reporting that her dialogue was filmed in New York in March without the actress seeing or speaking to other stars of the series, including Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis.

Michael Patrick King, creator of *Sex and the City* and the executive producer of *And Just Like That*, also did not meet Cattrall, according to reports.

Patricia Field, the costume designer acclaimed for her work on *Sex and the City* and both big-screen adaptations, dressed Samantha for her comeback scene, Variety said.

Field has not been working on *And Just Like That*.

Cattrall's absence hung over the revival's first season, which ended with Carrie and Samantha making plans via text to reconcile.

New characters were introduced, although critics and fans were lukewarm.

JAMES DEVANEY/GETTY IMAGES; HBO MAX



Kim Cattrall, in red, with, from left, Kristin Davis, Sarah Jessica Parker and Cynthia Nixon. Left, the first series of And Just Like That

Samantha will not be making a full return, it is said. However, *Sex and the City* fans are likely to welcome even a partial return of the beloved character, a high-powered publicist whose insatiable sexual appetite brought much of the show's humour.

Cattrall's fallout with Parker, 58, was well known. Media reports repeatedly told of tensions on set.

Following the end of *Sex and the City*'s six-year run in 2004, Cattrall said that she felt her salary did not reflect her importance to the show. She also turned down a third film, saying that the script was not up to scratch.

In 2018 the dispute exploded into the public eye when, following the death of her brother, Cattrall wrote to Parker on Instagram and said: "Your continuous reaching out is a painful reminder of how cruel you really were then and now."

In June last year Parker said the rift was "complicated" and added: "There isn't anyone else who's ever talked about me this way, so it's very painful."

Cattrall, however, appears to have been coaxed into reprising her role of Samantha by Casey Bloys, the chairman and chief executive of HBO and Max, the streaming platform.

Her comeback is all the more remarkable considering King unequivocally ruled it out last year.

"No," King told Variety when asked whether the door was open for her to return.

Series two of And Just Like That is due to arrive on the Max streaming platform on June 22

Commentator sacked after groping claims

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The voice of the BBC's Formula One coverage has been sacked from his lead commentary role on Formula E, a sister championship, for alleged inappropriate behaviour, The Times has learnt.

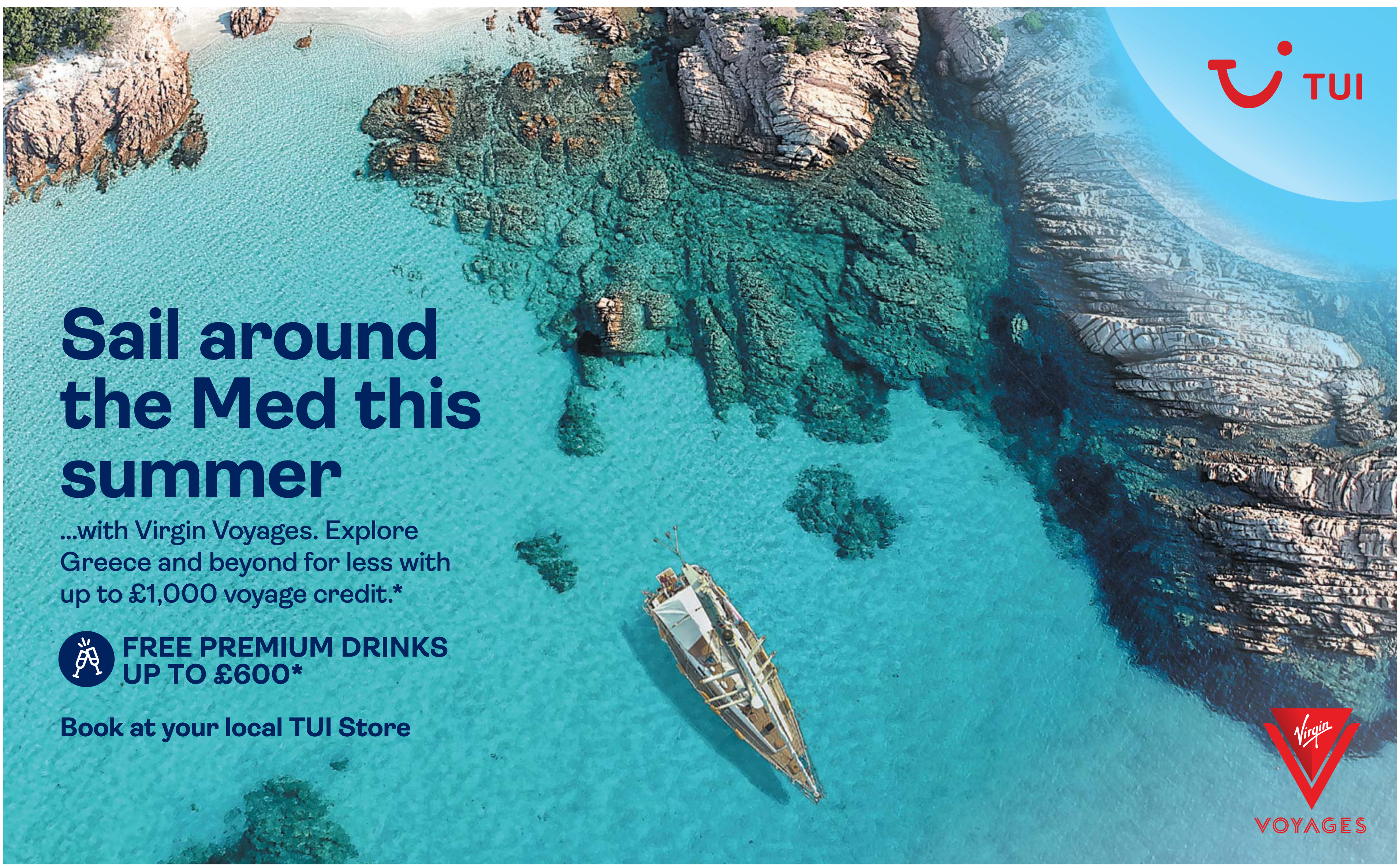
Jack Nicholls's contract was terminated after a complaint prompted an investigation overseen by an independent body. The inquiry is believed to have uncovered three complainants who claimed to have been touched inappropriately.

One was understood to have been a younger member of staff who was in a relationship with Nicholls, in breach of Formula E rules, while the other two complaints were made by witnesses.

The incidents are thought to have taken place around the world. The series uses locations such as Rome, São Paulo and Cape Town. Nicholls has covered the championship since 2014. Formula E said: "We can confirm an investigation was carried out in response to complaints of inappropriate behaviour. Following this, Jack Nicholls's contract to provide race commentary was terminated."

Nicholls added: "Although disappointed with the decision, I respect it and accept why it was taken."

One broadcaster said the allegations "put the BBC in a bit of a conundrum. This guy has been shown the door by Formula E yet remains on air on its Formula 1 coverage."



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News

Sussexes 'will stop TV criticism of royals'

Will Pavia New York

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are to stop appearing in Netflix shows criticising the royal family and will instead only feature behind the cameras.

The couple's attack on the royals in their March 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey was followed by the Netflix series *Harry & Meghan*.

Harry also discussed his troubles with his family in his memoir *Spare*, published in January.

An insider told The Sun: "That period of their life is over — as there is nothing left to say."

A source told the newspaper last year that the Netflix and memoir period was their "era of visibility" and that they hoped this year would be their "year of reconciliation" with the royal family.

The duke is said to be returning to Britain next week to give evidence against Mirror Group Newspapers in an ongoing case involving allegations of phone hacking.

Also next week, questions about how the Duke of Sussex was admitted to the United States despite his past drug use will be raised in a federal court as part of an effort by a conservative think tank to obtain his visa application.

The Heritage Foundation sued the US government last month, arguing that there was immense public interest in whether Harry was improperly granted a waiver to enter the country "given his history of admissions to the essential elements of drug offences".

There was also a "question of whether … the decision to grant the duke a visa … should be reconsidered in light of … [his] most recent admissions".

Nile Gardiner, a foreign policy analyst with the foundation who is referred to in the lawsuit as a former aide to Baroness Thatcher, said on Twitter that a federal judge in Washington had granted a hearing on Tuesday, to be held in open court.

The Heritage Foundation had sought the records via a freedom of information request and sued to expedite their release.

The suit quoted from *Spare*, in which he acknowledged having smoked marijuana, while "trying to make sure the smoke didn't waft into the garden of my neighbour, the Duke of Kent". He also admitted to dabbling with cocaine and experimenting with psychedelics, including magic mushrooms and the South American hallucinogenic drug ayahuasca.

The foundation said that people who admitted drug offences were considered "inadmissible" to the US, although exemptions were granted. It noted that in 2008 the singer Amy Winehouse had been denied entry because of past drug use, and that the musician Pete Doherty had been flown home on the same grounds in 2010. Winehouse was eventually granted a visa.

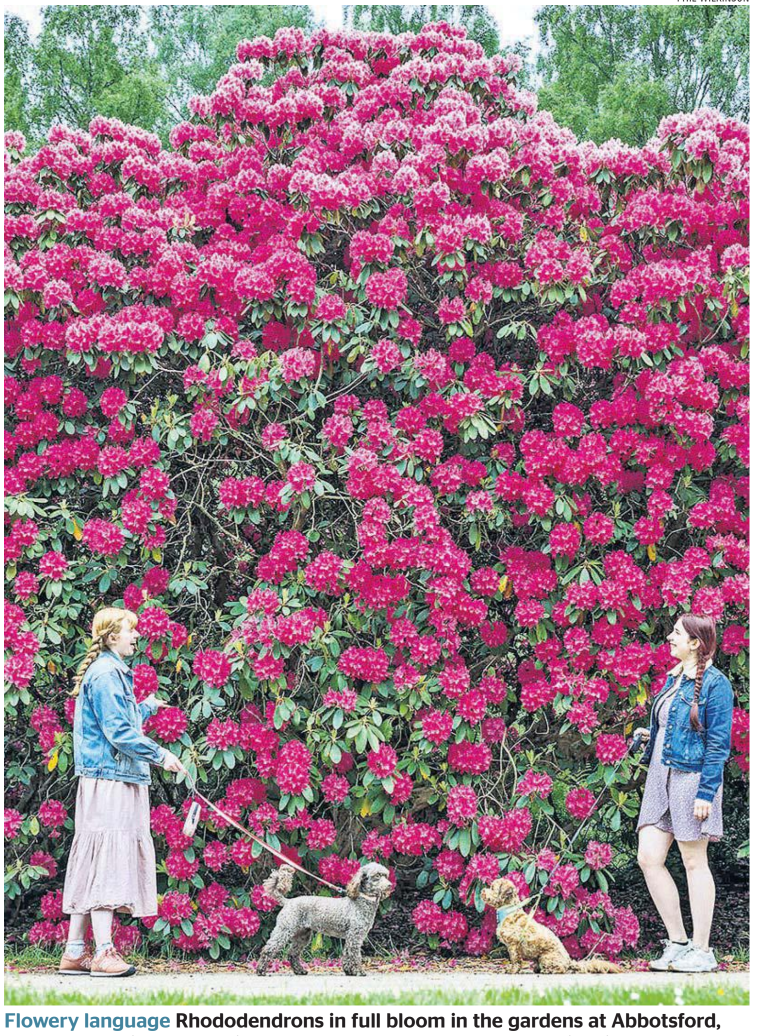
Lawyers for the government said Customs and Border Patrol had denied the Heritage Foundation's request because it "did not provide written authorisation from the Duke of Sussex indicating that [he] consented to his information being released".

Because the request had been denied, any attempt to expedite the request was moot. They also argued that there was little media interest in the case.



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PHIL WILKINSON



Flowery language Rhododendrons in full bloom in the gardens at Abbotsford, near Melrose in the Scottish Borders, once home to the novelist Sir Walter Scott

Remortgaging cost has risen by nearly 40% in four years

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

The cost of remortgaging has risen by 38 per cent since 2019, with homeowners paying an extra £350 a month on average.

Research commissioned by the Liberal Democrats — based on data from the trade body UK Finance — found that those who remortgaged in March this year were paying on average £1,305 a month, up from £949 before the last election. In London this had risen to £2,187 a month — up by £615.

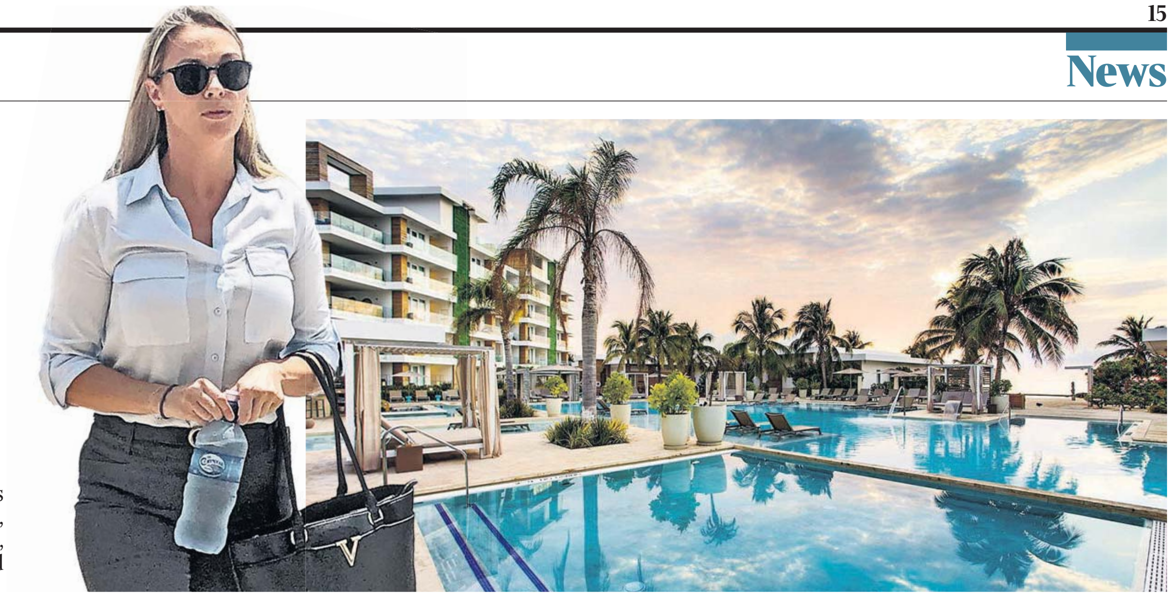
Home sales fell by a quarter in April compared with the same month last year, according to HMRC figures. Across the UK, 82,120 transactions were estimated to have taken place in April. Sales were also 8 per cent lower in April this year than in the previous month.

The Times reported that nearly 10 per cent of mortgage deals disappeared over a week as banks and building societies repriced loans after a sharp rise in borrowing costs.

A Treasury spokesman said: "Central banks around the world are raising interest rates in a collective effort to combat high inflation, driven by the pandemic and [President] Putin's war. To support UK families, we are providing around £3,300 per household to help them with rising costs — including holding down energy bills, and a record increase in the national living wage."

● Bradford is Britain's cheapest city to get on the property ladder, new figures show, while London is the most expensive. The average asking price for a typical first-time-buyer-type property in Bradford is £104,643, which could potentially lead to monthly mortgage payments of about £521, Rightmove said. Carlisle in Cumbria was identified as the second cheapest, with an average monthly mortgage payment of £522.

Ashcroft son's ex is spared jail over deadly shooting



Jasmine Hartin was found two years ago bloodied and apparently in shock outside the Alaia hotel on Ambergris Caye

Will Pavia Belize City

The former partner of Lord Ashcroft's son wept in a small courtroom in Belize last night when a judge said she would not be jailed for shooting and killing a policeman but issued her with one of the largest fines in the country's history.

Jasmine Hartin, 34, who pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter by negligence over the death of Henry Jemmott, a police superintendent and father of five, was ordered to pay 75,000 Belize dollars (£30,000), complete 300 hours of community service and to make a video about the perils of drinking and handling firearms. The sentence came two years and three days after Hartin was found bloodied and in shock on a pier on the island of Ambergris Caye.



Jasmine Hartin claimed that Henry Jemmott's shooting was an accident

She said Jemmott, a friend who had been urging her to get a gun for her own safety, had told her to practise loading and unloading his service revolver. It went off as she was trying to hand it back to him, she told investigators.

Judge Ricardo Sandicroft said Hartin did not instantly acknowledge what had happened, "but of course I also must weigh the stress of what was happening", he said. His sentence brought to an end a criminal case that stunned Belize and immediately raised questions about whether Hartin, who has two children with Andrew Ashcroft, the son of the Tory peer Lord Ashcroft, a powerful figure in the country, would be given special treatment.

But in the weeks that followed, Hartin broke publicly with the Ashcroft family and found herself shut out of her old home and fighting to regain her two children. Belize law grants unmarried mothers sole custody but Ashcroft was given custody last year and left with the children for Turks and Caicos, while Hartin remained subject to a curfew.

Yesterday she stood in a yellow-painted wooden dock, peering over a clear plastic screen at the judge who sat beneath large black and white photographs of the late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. She looked at the ceiling, breathing in deeply as the judge said the charge could carry a sentence of five years and then sighed deeply as Sandicroft declared that this would not be in the interests of society.

As the judge launched into a speech about the prison system handed down to Belize "in the post-slavery world", she began to weep, dabbing her eyes and nose with a handkerchief.

He said it would be up to the civil court to decide how much compensation she owed the family. "But a life has been lost. A life of a reputable and venerable police officer," he said. "The fact that drinking was taking place, that would not have been the best time to be handling a firearm."

Her social life was not his concern, the judge said. "We all have our vices … As Bob Marley said in his song, 'If night were to become day, I don't know if many of us would like to live that way.' "

Outside court, Orson Elrington, Hartin's lawyer, said the fine was "significantly more than any court has ever recorded". He said Hartin would be given back her passport, but suggested that she may stay in Belize while she seeks custody of her children.

First-aider discovered dying pedestrian was her husband

Kieran Gair

A former nurse who rushed to give first aid when a pensioner was hit by a falling traffic light discovered the dying man was her husband, a court was told.

Roseangela Varone, 51, was walking home from a supermarket in south London when she saw the man being hit by a falling traffic light that had been struck by a car. Her husband, Luigi, 69, had been waiting on a traffic island 50 yards from their home when the accident was allegedly caused by Mourad El Maddioudi, 35.

El Maddioudi allegedly collided with a second vehicle that then mounted the traffic island in Battersea Park Road, bringing down the light.

Mr Varone, a retired British Gas engineer, died from head injuries caused in the accident in January 2020, Southwark crown court was told. El Maddioudi, of Fulham, west London, denies causing death by careless driving.

Hamish Common, for the prosecution, told the court that the issue for the trial was El Maddioudi's standard of driving, adding: "The prosecution case is essentially that Mr El Maddioudi should not have followed the Audi so closely. He should not have crossed the opposing lane without checking. The fact he did was a cause of Mr Varone's death that was more than minimal."

The couple had been planning to eat at a restaurant in Fulham, the court was told.

"[Mrs Varone] went to help as she used to be a nurse. She then realised it was her husband," Common added.

Giving evidence, a witness, Philip Jeffries, told the court: "I saw a car go through the light, which was green. It skidded and swerved to avoid the car. It hit the island, hit the post, and hit the guy on the head."

Mr Varone died after suffering a "devastating injury" to the right-hand side of the head, the court was told.

Dr Ashley Fegan-Earl, a pathologist, said: "In my opinion this was a non-salvageable head injury and I note that CCTV shows no evidence of movement following this collision."

The trial continues.



News

E-gates 'upgraded' before IT chaos

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

MPs have demanded that Border Force avoid routine upgrades of passport e-gates before school holidays after the disruption caused last week by a nationwide glitch.

An update of e-gates on Wednesday last week led to a malfunction that was discovered late on Friday night, Home Office sources told The Times.

Friday was the busiest day at British airports since before the coronavirus pandemic, with more than3,000 flights scheduled to depart. The glitch led to queues of up to four hours for passengers arriving in the UK, which had a knock-on effect on departing travellers as Border Force officers had to be diverted.

A Home Office source said the upgrade led to an "unusual glitch" after a routine upgrade, which meant the system had to be paused for several hours while they reloaded data on to the e-gates system and rebooted the infrastructure.

Last weekend's delays came after British Airways had to cancel more than 175 flights following an IT failure on Thursday and Friday, which affected thousands of people heading on bank holiday and half-term holidays.

Travel industry experts predicted that the two incidents, as well as months of strikes at airports, would lead to a rise in the number of British holidaymakers opting for staycations.

Iain Stewart, the Conservative MP for Milton Keynes and chairman of the Commons transport committee, told The Times: "I shall be writing to ministers to ask why such upgrades are scheduled to take place near days of peak travel demand and ask for them to rescheduled for less busy times so that if there are tech glitches the impact would be less."

Greg Smith, a fellow Conservative who sits on the committee, said the decision to upgrade the e-gates system last week was particularly poor timing given it was before a bank holiday weekend as well as school holidays. He said: "It's clear that thousands of people were significantly disrupted when they were trying to get away for half-term breaks and few will be amused by the news that it was a planned upgrade.

"Upgrades should be planned for the quietest time of the year, not the start of the school holidays and a bank holiday. It's common sense, basic stuff."

Ben Bradshaw, who served in the last Labour cabinet as culture secretary and is also a member of the transport committee, said: "It would be sensible to do upgrades at quieter times of the year, rather than just as so many families head off for the school holidays."

Tim Hentschel, chief executive of HotelPlanner.com, the digital booking platform that monitors the impact of airport strikes, delays and cancellations on consumer confidence, said the breakdown in e-gates "couldn't have come at a worse time for the travel sector". He added: "The images emerging over the weekend of border queues made up of hundreds of people with multiple hours of standing in line is detrimental to consumer confidence when it comes to booking overseas travel.

"This incident, coupled with [others], could result in an increase in the number of UK travellers placing their trust in staycation bookings.

"We reported a significant spike in the number of last-minute bookings for UK properties in line with recent strikes, and it is not out of the question that this could once again be the case with travellers hoping to enjoy a break without the threats of cancellations and lengthy delays. So, if there were to be any beneficiaries from this unfortunate scenario, you'd be looking towards the likes of the Lake District, the Cotswolds, Devon and Cornwall."

The Home Office said most border control queue times were no longer than half an hour, with 96 per cent of recorded wait times in March below 30 minutes. It said Border Force had "robust" plans in place to deploy officers flexibly to support passenger flow, which is affected by large passenger numbers, flight delays and flight bunching.

Border Force said: "The issue was unplanned and was quickly identified and resolved by Saturday. We have been working hard to minimise disruption. We thank those travellers who were impacted for their patience, and staff for their work in resolving the issue."

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES



Passengers at Gatwick and other UK airports faced queues of up to four hours after a nationwide system failure with e-gates



TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Film chief isn't Gove, actually

The American film director Paul Feig doesn't think he is famous. When he walks on the red carpet at the Met Gala, photographers tend to shout "Get out of the way!" at him. However, when he is in Britain he is often recognised, just not for who he is. "You know who I get mistaken for all the time?" he tells Susannah Constantine on *My Wardrobe Malfunction*. "Michael Gove." The director of *Bridesmaids*, right, does do a fair impression of the levelling-up secretary when he has his glasses on and the British electorate are keen to let him know. This is his reason, at least, for why a woman in the street recently called him "a complete and utter tw**". It's either that or she really disliked Feig's remake of *Ghostbusters*.



Ray Mears can make a meal out of anything he finds in the wild, but one food is too gross even for Mr Great Outdoors. Mears tells Taunton and South Somerset Living that he draws the line at eating Brussels sprouts.

BIRD'S EXCELLENT MOTTO
Our defence intelligence is guided by the spirit of the 1980s, says Adrian Bird, who came from GCHQ last year to run the spies in the MoD — and he doesn't mean the Cold War. Bird ended a talk on his objectives at the Royal United Services Institute by saying that his personal motto is "Be excellent to each other", a line cribbed from *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, a 1989 time-travel film about Californian wastrels. Their other catchphrase — "Party on, dudes" — has already been adopted by Downing Street.

THANK HUGH FOR THAT
The novelist Jonathan Coe was asked by Stephen Frears for advice on how to perk up the script to his film *Florence Foster Jenkins*, a biopic starring Meryl Streep as a tone-deaf opera singer and Hugh Grant as her manager. Coe told the Hay Festival that he sent some thoughts and when he later met Frears after a preview told him it now felt much funnier. "That was you," Frears said. Coe beamed at what he took as a compliment. "Thank you," he said. "No, I meant it was *Hugh*," Frears clarified. "Hugh Grant."

Marcus Walker, rector of Great St Barts in the City of London, was bewildered yesterday when his attempt to consult the Bible online was blocked by anti-virus software, which thought St Luke was trying to steal his details. I blame the computer misunderstanding Christ's promise to make his disciples phishers of men.

HISTORY BOYS ARE BEARING UP
Richard Ovenden, the head of the Bodleian Library, is marking 20 years amid Oxford's bookshelves by posting his favourite acquisitions online. "I had the pleasure of telling Alan Bennett that his papers share a shelf with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle," he says. The files reveal that Bennett felt his draft of *The History Boys*, one of the National Theatre's biggest hits, was "pretty hopeless" and that after three months of tinkering it had its first reading with Hugh Bonneville playing the inspirational-if-handsy teacher Hector while Ben Whishaw read for one of the boys. Neither made it to the stage, but ten years later Whishaw played Paddington Bear to Bonneville's Mr Brown.

PATRICK KIDD

Pacino, 83, expecting child with partner, 29

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

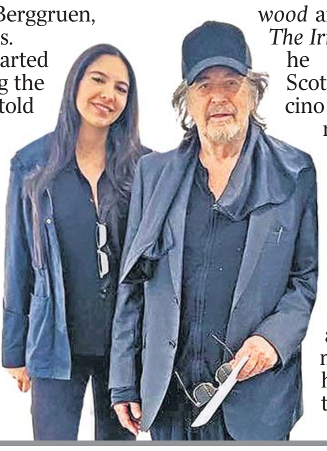
Al Pacino is to become a father again at the age of 83, according to media reports in America.

The actor's partner, Noor Alfallah, 29, was eight months pregnant and a representative for Pacino had confirmed the news, said TMZ, the showbiz website.

Pacino, the Oscar-winning star of films including *The Godfather*, *Serpico* and *Scarface*, was first linked to Alfallah last year. The Page Six column in the New York Post later reported that they had begun a relationship during the pandemic.

Alfallah, who is thought to come from a wealthy Kuwaiti-American family, was previously linked to Mick Jagger, 79, and Nicolas Berggruen, a billionaire in his sixties.

"Pacino and Noor started seeing each other during the pandemic," a source told Page Six. "She mostly dates rich older men … She has been with Al for some time and they get on very well. The age gap doesn't seem to be a problem, even though he is older than her father." Representatives for Pacino were contacted for comment. Pacino has three children, including a grown-up daughter with the acting coach Jan Tarrant and 22-year-old twins with the actress Beverly D'Angelo.



Nour Alfallah and Al Pacino "get on well"

Speaking to the New Yorker in 2014, Pacino, who won the best actor Oscar for 1992's *Scent of a Woman*, said his approach to parenting was informed by his father walking out on the family when Pacino was two years old.

"Having children has helped a lot," he said. "I consciously knew I didn't want to be like my dad. I wanted to be there. I have three children. I'm responsible to them. I'm a part of their life. When I'm not, it's upsetting to me and to them."

In 2019 Pacino appeared in two of the year's biggest films – Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman*, while in 2021 he starred in Ridley Scott's *House of Gucci*. Pacino has been cast in the role of an art collector in a forthcoming biopic of the artist Amedeo Modigliani, to be directed by Johnny Depp.

Robert De Niro, a friend and former co-star of Pacino's, announced last month that he had a seventh child at the age of 79.



Default Private Accounts
Instagram accounts for teenagers are set to private by default, so what they post stays private to them and their followers.

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Terror laws ‘misused to spare diplomat’

Charlie Parker

A former civil servant has accused the government of “weaponising” national security laws in an attempt to cover up misconduct by Britain’s former ambassador to the United States.

Andrew Hale-Byrne is suing two cabinet ministers — James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, and Kemi Badenoch, the international trade secretary — after he was arrested by counterterrorism police over allegations that he leaked diplomatic cables in 2019.

The documents showed that Sir Kim Darroch, the former ambassador to the US, had criticised President Trump as “inept”, “insecure” and “incompetent” — prompting a diplomatic storm.

Hale-Byrne denies being the leaker and was never charged.

He has launched legal action, claiming that he was arrested to divert attention from Darroch, who had allegedly leaked much more sensitive intelligence to the press.

Hale-Byrne alleges that Darroch was having an affair with a CNN correspondent and provided her with classified information from the Five Eyes alliance comprising the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

The correspondent has denied the affair and said that she received no leaks from Darroch.

At a preliminary High Court hearing yesterday a judge heard arguments as to whether the government could submit a “closed” defence — where the public and press would be excluded — on the grounds that an “open” case could be a national security risk.

Closed material can only be viewed by special advocates who cannot discuss the evidence with anyone else including the parties, and their regular lawyers, in the case.

Paul Diamond, Hale-Byrne’s barrister, read a statement to the court on behalf of his client which said there was an “official UK government cover-up of Kim Darroch’s crimes” and that the Justice and Security Act, which is usually employed in terrorism cases, was being purposefully misused.

The statement said: “The civil service is attempting to weaponise counterterrorism legislation in an effort to block the press and the public from my High Court claim against James Cleverly and Kemi Badenoch.

“Any corrupt or foolish Tory government minister who signs off on an application under the Justice and Security Act to block the press and the public should be ashamed of themselves for such Soviet-style behaviour.

“We expect this behaviour from totalitarian regimes, such as Russia, China and North Korea, but it is an outrage this could now happen in the UK.”

Master Davison, the judge, noted that with members of the press present, the statement appeared to be aimed at the “public gallery”, while Adam Heppinstall KC, representing the government, suggested that the real reason for the hearing was “so the claimant’s statement could be read”.

The judge granted permission for a closed defence to be filed, which a judge with the appropriate security clearance will then review to assess the need for secrecy. The claimant was ordered to bear the costs of the hearing.

Darroch resigned as the US ambassador in July 2019 after Trump criticised the memo leak and called him a “stupid guy”.

Boris Johnson, then foreign secretary, refused to support the ambassador due to his description of the former president as dysfunctional and clumsy.

Diamond told the court that the US Congress was considering holding hearings into the allegations against Darroch.

In court documents obtained by The Daily Telegraph, Hale-Byrne claimed that his arrest “was part of a disinformation campaign to protect Lord Darroch and maintain diplomatic prestige”.

He believes that his name was given to police by officials in the Foreign Office and the Department for International Trade.

Badenoch and Cleverly are defendants because they are the nominal heads of the two departments involved at the time.

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The devout train cleaner bedevilled by sponges

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A devout Christian who cleaned trains sued his bosses after taking offence at the sight of the word “Lord” graffitied on a carriage wall.

Godswill Abia also brought a legal claim against the cleaning company, contracted by Transport for London, over claims that his colleagues were “polluting the dignity of the creator in him” by the way in which they discarded their sponges.

In a string of claims, Abia said his Christianity had been targeted by a coworker, who had asked why he enjoyed listening to the reggae star Bob Marley.

But his allegations of religious harassment were dismissed by an employment tribunal, which ruled that none of the behaviour cited by Abia was aimed at him. The tribunal in Watford heard that Abia worked for ABM facility services, cleaning trains in London as part of a team of five other Christians and two Muslims.

Abia was described as “passionate Christian”, who would hand out religious texts at work and “frequently” cited passages from the Bible. He told the tribunal there was a “vendetta” against him and a “campaign to belittle him to force him out on religious grounds” through several “suspicious events”.

The panel heard Abia also took issue with the word “Lord” being graffitied on the wall of a train he was cleaning, claiming it had been written where he had argued with a colleague about religion. He told the tribunal that it had been a “deliberate act insulting his religion and his beliefs”.

Abia was also troubled by the positioning of sponges and other cleaning equipment, claiming that it was a use “of objects and sounds to follow up a projected gestural pollutant with the aid of an evil spirit”. He added that his colleagues had engaged in that behaviour to “pollute the dignity of the creator in … Abia”.

All his claims were dismissed.

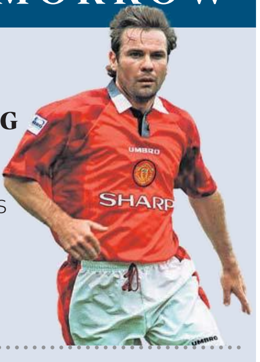
IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

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SPORT
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MAIN PAPER



ARTS
THE RETURN OF THE FULL MONTY
(without the stripping)
PULLOUT



Compensation fight leaves postmaster in 'black hole'

Tom Witherow

TIME PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Chirag Sidhpura cannot afford a solicitor to help him win the compensation he believes he deserves for his unfair sacking

A Horizon Post Office victim whose ordeal left him with PTSD and a broken marriage is still fighting for compensation after two years.

Chirag Sidhpura, 39, was sacked from his branch in Farncombe, Surrey, after the Post Office accused him of stealing £57,000 in 2017.

He was one of thousands to be accused of taking cash from his own till when, in fact, dozens of computer glitches in the Horizon computer system were to blame. Postmasters were sacked and bankrupted, hundreds were prosecuted, and at least four took their own lives.

Sidhpura, a former engineer and father of three, is still fighting for proper compensation after first applying to the historical shortfall scheme in March 2021.

He said he had used Google to understand legal terms while filling out the claim form because the Post Office only offered funding for advice after it had made an offer.

When he received a response from the Post Office, he saw that its independent panel of experts — mostly KC barristers — had offered him less than a third of what he believed he was owed.

He said the delay had left him in a "black hole" but vowed to fight on. "I suffered with PTSD. I feel traumatised, and this makes me even more depressed," he said. "The delay makes you really anxious.

"Because I didn't have a solicitor, I've done everything on my own. I can't afford a solicitor costing £650 per hour.

"I never understood the actual legality of the claim form — or how they were going to work it out."

The Post Office never proved he took the cash, and even allowed him back into the same post office as an employee, on a considerably lower income when his brother-in-law took over as the postmaster.

As postmaster he had earned about £43,000 a year, but he now does two evening jobs alongside his position in the post office to make ends meet.

He told the public inquiry into the scandal last year: "Overnight I lost everything," adding: "I have no marriage left [because] the Post Office broke me as a human."

This week The Times reported that postmasters had been forced into accepting "insulting" settlement offers after being wrongly gagged by Post Office lawyers, which the company denied. Now a government adviser on compensation said the revelations "appeared to be more evidence of a culture at the Post Office rotten to the core".

Kevan Jones, a Labour MP and longtime campaigner, said: "The contrast between their compensation and the £455,000 bonus paid to the chief executive will not be lost on the victims." It was also claimed that offers under the historical shortfall scheme had been widely undervalued due to flawed forms, a lack of legal advice and apparently "arbitrary" caps on payouts for lost income.

The Post Office is under pressure from ministers after it admitted it had awarded 50 managers bonuses based on false information related to its involvement in the Horizon inquiry. Its board has begun an inquiry, led by a non-executive director, who has filed a report to the business department.

The Post Office also admitted it had given racist guidance to fraud teams, who were asked to categorise Horizon suspects into groups including "negroid types". It apologised.

The Post Office said: "Our sole aim is for full, fair and final compensation to be provided as swiftly as possible. Compensation offers totalling around £100 million have been made to 2,400 postmasters through the historical shortfall scheme. Offer letters strongly encourage postmasters to take legal advice, which is reimbursed.

"Any postmaster who is unhappy with an offer is rightly given the option of disputing it, with an interim payment of up to 80 per cent of the proposed settlement if they wish to do so."

Less support in UK for teen trans treatments

James Beal Social Affairs Editor
Tom Witherow

Most Britons are sympathetic about discrimination faced by trans people, according to polling — but support for their use of single-sex spaces and medical treatment in their teens is among the lowest in the world.

The UK came third-last of 30 countries when ranked on public support for the statement "that transgender teenagers should be allowed to receive gender-affirming care, such as counselling and hormone replacement treatment, with parental consent".

Forty-seven per cent of Britons either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed while 35 per cent disagreed and 18 per cent were not sure. Only the US and Hungary polled lower. Support for the same treatment in Portugal, Spain and Italy was almost 25 percentage points higher. Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Poland all had greater support for teenage treatment than the UK.

The LGBT+ Pride report, compiled by Ipsos, also showed that the UK was the second-lowest of 30 countries in terms of support for trans people being allowed to use the public toilets of their choice. A total of 40 per cent agreed with this statement in Britain, while the same amount disagreed. Only the US was ranked lower. Thailand came top, followed by Italy, Spain and Holland.

The polling comes amid heightened scrutiny of trans issues after a talk by Dr Kathleen Stock at the University of Oxford on Tuesday. Her talk was disrupted by two trans protesters who shouted slogans. A third, Riz Possnett, glued one hand to the floor. Thames Valley Police said no action had been taken against the student, who uses the pronouns they/them. Lee Anderson, the MP for Ashfield and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, said it was wrong that five officers, who could have been "investigating proper crimes", were being diverted to the student protest. He said disruptors should be fined £1,000 for wasting police time.

Free speech laws threaten to swamp debate, Juliet Samuel, page 25
My mad day with Stock, Times2



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ELLIOTT FRANKS



Sister acts Rehearsals for a new production of Verdi's Il trovatore, which opens tomorrow at the Royal Opera House

Call for electric car owners to pay 6p-a-mile charge

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor
Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

The government should charge drivers of electric cars 6p per mile to use Britain's roads or risk losing billions of pounds from the public finances every year, an influential think tank has said.

The rapid speed of drivers' conversion to electric vehicles throws up major questions for the government about how to deal with the impact on the Treasury, according to a report by the Resolution Foundation.

There are 1.1 million electric vehicles (EVs) on the road in the UK, up from 748,349 in 2021. The pace of consumer change has been faster than predicted, with EVs accounting for one in seven new cars purchased last year. The government wants to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in 2030, and hybrids which use a combination of electric and convention fuels by 2035.

But the green transition poses challenges for the government because more EVs results in lower receipts from fuel duty for the government. EVs are also exempt from vehicle excise duty (VED), though this will change in 2025.

The Resolution Foundation said this would mean a £10 billion a year shortfall in the public finances by the early 2030s. In a new report it has proposed that the government introduce a new "road duty" for electric vehicles, levied at about 6p per mile.

It says that this would be enough to offset the fall in fuel duty revenues over the next decade, while maintaining the incentive to switch with EVs still 30 per cent cheaper to run than fuel-powered cars. The new duty would be charged using GPS data.

In the UK drivers average 5,506 miles annually. It means drivers would pay £330 a year if road tax were charged at 6p a mile. This would be on top of VED.

EV drivers will be forced to pay VED for the first time from April 2025 as the Treasury looks to plug the gap in lost revenue. Under the plans laid out in the autumn budget, electric cars registered from April 2025 will pay £10 in the first year, then move to the standard rate which is currently £165. The standard rate will also apply to electric vehicles first registered after April 2017.

The Office of Budget Responsibility says the measure will net £515 million in 2025-26, £985 million in the second and £1.59 billion in the third year as more people switch to EVs.

The expensive car supplement exemption for EVs will also end in 2025, with new cars in excess of £40,000 liable for the charge. This is currently set at £355 per year for cars with a list price of £40,000 or more in their second to sixth years of registration.

In February last year the transport select committee suggested the government consider a form of "road pricing", where drivers pay according to the distance they've driven, the type of vehicle, and congestion.

Jonny Marshall, a senior economist at the Resolution Foundation, said: "Unless we modernise road taxation to reflect the cars that are on our streets today and in the future, we risk putting even more pressure on the public finances and our crowded roads."

The Local Government Association, which represent councils in England and Wales, said: "While councils are working hard to support the transition to zero-emission vehicles, it is vital that we avoid a huge increase in traffic levels on our local roads, which according to official statistics, could be 54 per cent higher by 2060."

Time to get into gear on electric vehicle chargers, leading article, page 29

Is lack of young undertakers grounds for grave concern?

Farmers, undertakers and elected politicians are among the occupations most dependent on older workers, new figures suggest.

Some 42 per cent of farmers in England and Wales said they were aged 60 or over at the time of the 2021 census, along with 28 per cent of people working as undertakers or mortuary and crematorium assistants. Nearly a third (30 per cent) of members of the clergy were at least 60, similar to caretakers (29 per cent) and typists (31 per cent).

The largest proportion was among elected representatives — anyone whose main job is being paid to hold an elected office, from local councillors to members of parliament — where just over half (52 per cent) were aged 60 or over and 38 per cent were 65 or above.

The figures have been published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and are the latest to be released from the census, which took place in England and Wales in March 2021.

They show that farmers have a particularly old-age profile, with fewer than 11 per cent aged under 30 and 29 per cent aged at least 65. The average proportion of those over 65 in the whole working population is 4 per cent.

Farming is also the occupation with the highest UK-born workforce, at 98 per cent.

The census counted farm workers separately and among this group — who may do more of the physical labour — the ONS found nearly a quarter of people (23 per cent) were aged under 25. "An occupation with an older age profile could pose challenges for labour supply in the future if not enough young people go into that type of work," it said.

While nearly three in ten (28 per cent) of people working as undertakers and mortuary or crematorium assistants were aged 60 or above, only one in ten were under 30.

Typists and other related keyboard roles "appears to be a dying profession", with 60 per cent of people doing this job aged 50 or over. By contrast, data entry jobs, which also involve routine keyboard work, were mostly held by younger people, with 41 per cent under the age of 35 — higher than the equivalent figure (33 per cent) for the whole workforce.



Ancient trees should get automatic legal protection, says Mears

Constance Kampfner

Ancient trees "need to be given protection in law" to halt the loss of Britain's biodiversity, Ray Mears has said.

The survival expert and TV presenter called for the protection of the UK's oldest woodlands, some of which he said had fewer protections "than a red phone box".

At the moment, ancient trees have legal protection if they provide a home to other protected species, but have no automatic right to protection themselves.

Mears, 59, said: "I've heard town planners more than once say, 'I don't know what the fuss is about. We're going to plant new ancient woodland nearby'. This is folly and ignorance. You can't plant ancient woodlands.

"The good news is that as a nation, we are planting more trees than anywhere else. But we also need to very much cherish our ancient trees. We need to give them protection in law."

Speaking at the Hay Festival, Mears said it would be a mistake to build on the green belt. The housing crisis has led to renewed calls to allow building on these protected sites that cover about 12 per cent of England and 22 per cent of Greater London and Sir Keir Starmer said last month that Labour would give English councils more powers to do so.

"Our ancestors were wise to set aside the green belt," Mears said. "I'm not taking political sides because I don't think any side is completely on the side of trees, so I stand for the trees. But anyone who thinks you can cut down trees and make society better; they've departed from the realm of wisdom."

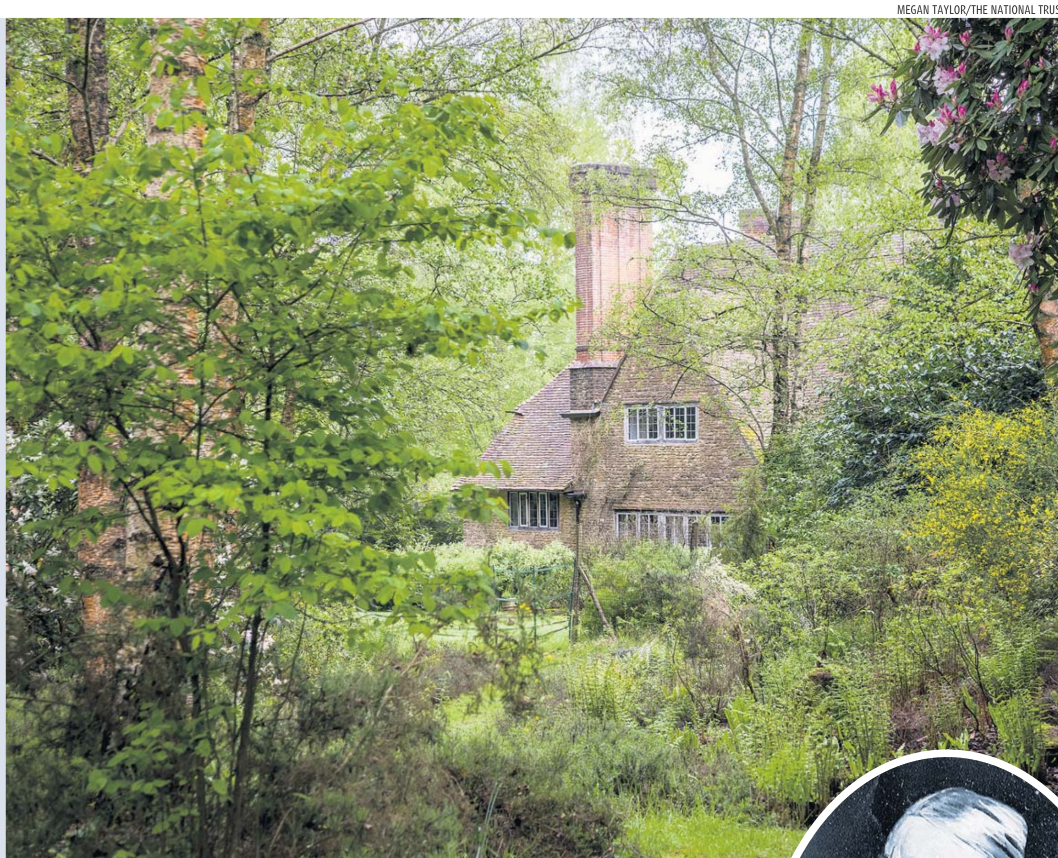
The environmentalist is best known for BBC programmes such as *Ray Mears' Bushcraft* and *Ray Mears' World of Survival* and last year published *British Woodland: How to Explore the Secret World of Our Trees*. He spoke of the need for Britons to remember how to "enjoy nature" and said he had been disappointed by the rolling back of the right to "wild camp" on Dartmoor.

The national park is planning to appeal against a court ruling that found in favour of a landowner, Alexander Darwall, who successfully argued that the assumed right to wild camp on Dartmoor never existed, bringing to an end the decades-long practice.

Mears said the "massive benefits" of allowing people to explore the landscape outweighed the "small amounts of environmental damage" incurred by doing so. "We have to get the balance right. I would like to see more places where people could camp wild as long as they follow a protocol and do things correctly, and of course the majority do. Because the benefit to us as a society is huge," he said.

"We have never lived in a more dangerous period than now and I'm worried that we aren't resilient in the way we once were. We need to preserve those opportunities and those places where we can train the next generation to be truly strong so they can face whatever challenges."





MEGAN TAYLOR/THE NATIONAL TRUST

Munstead Wood in Surrey has been described as a "seminal" garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll, below

Horticultural history saved for the nation

In his long career, Capability Brown designed 170 gardens. His follower Humphry Repton had a hand in more than 300. These careers from our leading horticulturalists are impressive, yet they are overshadowed by the 400 designs made by Gertrude Jekyll (Jack Blackburn writes).

Jekyll was a crucial figure in Victorian gardening and her home was a crossroads for the arts and crafts movement, the architect Edwin Lutyens and her own innovative designs. And now, that home has been saved by the nation in a purchase by the National Trust.

Munstead Wood, which is just outside of Godalming in Surrey, was bought in a private sale with support from the government. A fundraising campaign has started to fund its restoration.

"Jekyll changed the way we think about garden design," Hilary McGrady, the National Trust's director-general, said. "It's difficult to overstate the importance of this seminal garden."

The 11-acre site was a place where Jekyll experimented with her flowers and colours as part of a career where she designed hundreds of gardens in Britain and America.

Jekyll was not the first female landscape gardener, but her impact was immense. She was the first woman to be awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour and was familiar beyond her field for her prolific writing.

The garden at Munstead Wood has already been salvaged from the efforts of the house's subsequent owners. In the 1950s, the garden was "simplified" but restoration work has kept Jekyll's vision alive.

The woodland garden is still intact and includes paths, walls and a pond designed by Lutyens.

"There is no greater example of a classic English garden," Andy Jasper, the trust's head of gardens and parklands, said. "Munstead Wood continues to showcase Jekyll's signature naturalistic design, her bold use of colour and innovative use of everyday plants."

The house and garden at Munstead Wood are Grade I listed, and it was originally the home of Jekyll's mother after the death of her father.

Taking inspiration from the arts and crafts movement and designers such as John Ruskin and William Morris, Jekyll broke with convention, planting more freely and with a greater variety of plants. She soon had horticulturalists flocking to see her work.

Her house, which was made by Lutyens out of Bargate stone, was completed in 1897. She said of Munstead Wood: "My garden is my workshop, my private study and place of rest."



Tinkering in the shed could save lives

Peter Chappell

The inventor of a fireproof e-bike conversion kit praised the "Great British tradition of tinkering" after his lockdown project became a start-up success.

Nick Bailey, 43, an engineer, invented the system from his shed in south London during the pandemic.

There were 37 e-bike or e-scooter fires in the capital alone last year and the London Fire Brigade has labelled them the biggest emerging fire threat.

There is particular concern about kits that allow regular bicycles to be converted into e-bikes, often with unregulated batteries bought online. Bailey said fires can only be prevented if batteries are independently tested and sold through reputable bike shops.

Bailey put his love of repairing and making down to his parents. His father built classic cars and his mother owned a curtain business. His sons, aged eight and ten, want to become chief bike inspector and chief delivery driver in the business.

Bailey came up with the Boost conversion kit after making a prototype battery from a second-hand motor and spare electronics. He fixed it to his 40-year-old steel-frame bike and took it for spins during lockdown.

He had ridden the Peugeot bike around Malaysia after finishing university. When the serial inventor attached his creation the old bike became so "sprightly, it almost felt young again".



Nick Bailey in his shed, where he invented his e-bike conversion kit

Boost, which received government start-up funding, has been granted hundreds of thousands of pounds in investment and its kits are sold in 100 shops across the country.

Louis Wigston, 33, co-owner of Paradise Cycles in Bethnal Green, east London, said "the Boost kit represents an opportunity to have an electric bike without the expense and have the fun and ease of riding". The £645 price tag is around the cost of a regular e-bike.

The motors are the only kits sold through shops so safety standards are "enshrined", according to the bike shop owner, and customers liked its discreet design because the technology was less obvious to thieves. "What we don't want to have is a bit of a scare about all things e-bikes and batteries when actually it's very much the unsafe equipment that comes through untraceable channels like Amazon that are the problem," he said.

"If people have a bike they already really like, they get to keep the bike and it just becomes an e-bike. They can even take the battery off and use it as a normal bike without any modification."

No licence, tax or insurance is needed for an e-bike. The rules state they should not be able to travel power-assisted at more than 15.5mph, but the Met has seized modified vehicles that can reach up to 60mph.

Hobbyists still have a role in high-tech society, leading article, page 29



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ROLEX

Female boss for The Office in Oz

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

David Brent's plea in *The Office* to "have a laugh with women, not at them" has been heeded.

More than two decades after the sitcom set in Slough first aired, the comedian Felicity Ward will play the middle-management archetype in an Australian version of the BBC comedy.

Brent, played by Ricky Gervais in the original series, will be re-imagined as Hannah Howard, managing director of the packaging company Flinley Craddick.

When she gets news from head office that her branch is to be shut and everyone will be forced to work from home, Howard goes into survival mode, making promises she can't keep to keep her "work family" together. Her staff must endure her outlandish plots as they try to achieve the impossible targets.

The Australian version of *The Office*, which will air next year, will be the 13th international version of the show created by Gervais and Stephen Merchant, which has already been adapted in countries including France, Canada, Chile, Israel, India, Saudi Arabia and Poland. An American version starring the actor Steve Carell ran for nine series, becoming a global hit in its own right.

The Australian series will be available globally, excluding the US, through Amazon Prime Video. Gervais said that the world had moved on since he wrote two series of the show, which aired on BBC2 from 2001.

"I'm very excited about Australia remaking my little show from the turn of the century," he said. "Office politics have changed a bit in 20 years, so can't wait to see how they navigate a modern-day David Brent."

Ward, 42, lives in London but was born in Sydney, where production will start in June and is expected to take eight weeks. She has appeared in the stand-up series *Live at the BBC* and the Radio 4 comedy *Appisodes*, in which she downloaded phone apps to help her deal with modern life.

After her new role was announced, Ward tweeted: "Cat's out of the bag. Here we farken go, eh?"

Kylie Washington, managing director of BBC Studios Australia and New Zealand, said: "We figured the world is ready for a lovable, flawed lady boss ruling over her packaging empire." The lead writer is Julie De Fina, whose credits include the ABC comedy *Aftertaste*.

Amazon Prime Video is the second most popular subscription streaming service in the UK, used in 12.9 million homes, down from 13.1 million at the end of last year. Netflix leads the way with 16.96 million households, down from 17.15 million.

According to data released by the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board (Barb), smaller services Now and Apple TV+ gained ground. The former grew by 8 per cent to reach 2.03 million, with Apple up 13 per cent to 1.91 million.

PHILIP GATWARD/AMAZON PRIME





The comedian Felicity Ward has been cast as Hannah Howard — the latest foreign version of David Brent, played by Ricky Gervais

BBC wants more control over remotes

Alex Farber

The BBC has called for TV manufacturers to be forced to add a dedicated on-demand button to their remote controls as it seeks to challenge the growth of Netflix.

The broadcaster set out the need for a button that takes viewers to iPlayer, ITVX and Channel 4's streaming service among others as part of its submission to a Commons cross-party select committee, which is scrutinising the media bill. Details are scarce about the specific screen that viewers would be directed to if policymakers heeded the demand.

However, it reflects concerns among the traditional broadcasters about the expensive global deals that have been struck between US giants such as Netflix with device manufacturers, including LG, Samsung and Sony, to feature a Netflix button on remote controls.

"Remote controls are a major gateway to content on TV sets and user interfaces – their importance is demonstrated by fierce competition between the largest content providers for branded buttons," the BBC said in its submission. "Without a legislative backstop, PSBs [public service broadcasters] are losing out to global platforms.

"There should be a requirement for a dedicated PSB button on remote controls in instances where there are similar buttons for non-PSB services."

Published on March 28, the draft media bill has prominence for the public service broadcasters at its heart.

The bill will compel TV manufacturers to ensure that the main broadcasters' streaming services appear at the top of their menus. It does not include a requirement for any changes to be made to remote controls.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said: "Ensuring public service broadcasters such as the BBC are easy to discover in today's highly competitive media landscape is vital.

"TV hardware, such as remote controls, is not in scope of our draft Media Bill, but we will bring in proportionate new rules to make sure public broadcasters' services are shown prominently in the user interfaces on smart TVs, set-top boxes and similar devices."

Succession star says AI can't deliver 'killer lines'

Alex Farber

The star of *Succession* has said artificial intelligence could never match the quality of writers behind the hit drama, as the industry has ground to a halt by a weeks-long strike.

Jeremy Strong, who stars in the HBO show, which concluded on Monday, said that AI would be unable to come up with the killer lines delivered by his character Kendall Roy, such as: "We go reverse Viking, we pillage their village" and: "We can get a funeral off the rack. We can do Reagan's with tweaks."

He told entertainment website Deadline: "AI ain't gonna write *Succession*, or *Chinatown* or *The Godfather*. It's just not going to.

"If we don't nurture and provide the infrastructure and the apparatus to support and engender and create another generation of writers who are deep thinkers, who are grappling with the big things the way Jesse [Armstrong], Aaron Sorkin and Eric Roth and Amy Herzog are grappling, then what's left is decadence. And that's terrifying because in our culture, decadence is the last stage before collapse."

He also showed solidarity with the Writers Guild of America strikers who began their action at the start of last month amid complaints that the streaming business model championed by Netflix and Disney had ruined their livelihoods.

"There is a Lincoln quote that I'll paraphrase," Strong said: "An industry that does not honour its writers will not long endure."

Appearing on the *Succession* companion podcast, Strong said that the strength of the script enabled him to give such a raw emotional performance.

"Fundamentally, it's the writing," he said. "It's Jesse Armstrong's astonishingly brilliant writing. He's writing with such understanding of human beings and their complexities, fallibilities and pathos. And there's such a subterranean level underneath it."

Elsewhere in the episode he revealed that he was "gutted" by the way in which the show ended.

"I had the vague sense of things and had spoken to Jesse before the season. It's an episode that contained the whole arc of the series in miniature. Kendall does an Icarus flying as close to the sun as he can and this episode was winding the bow back to its final target, which is someone who has lost everything."



GUY BELL/SHUTTERSTOCK



Urban sprawl Tomás Saraceno's artwork Cloud Cities: Species of Spaces and Other Pieces is showing at the Serpentine Galleries in Kensington Gardens, London

Ants build landmarks to navigate

Rhys Blakely

Ants find their way home by building landmarks, a study has shown.

The research looked at the desert ant, *Cataglyphis fortis*, which lives on flat, largely featureless salt pans in north Africa. These insects must travel far from their nest to forage in extreme heat — meaning they must return by the most efficient route possible.

In Tunisia, nests in the centre of the saltpans, where there were hardly any visible landmarks, had mounds up to 40cm high at the entrances. Nest hills near the shrub-covered edges of the saltpans were lower.

If researchers removed the mounds built in featureless landscapes, fewer ants came home and others started to rebuild the structures as quickly as possible. When scientists placed small cylinders near nest entrances and then removed the mounds, the ants did not invest in building new ones.

Dr Markus Knaden of the Max Planck Institute, who has been studying desert ants for 25 years, said: "The fact that they build their own landmarks for orientation and only choose to invest in this work when other environmental cues are missing is quite surprising." The findings are published in the journal Current Biology.

Work smoke breaks equal to a week off

Laurence Sleator

For the deskbound non-smoker counting down the minutes until lunch, watching a colleague nipping out "for a quick fag break" has always inspired resentment.

It turns out the non-smoker really is getting a raw deal because smokers gain an extra week of holiday each year from stepping outside, according to research.

A study by Haypp UK, a company that sells tobacco-free nicotine pouches, found that 52 per cent of smokers and vapers had regular smoke breaks while working.

On average, smokers spend five to ten minutes away from their desks each day, the research showed, with some spending up to 20 minutes outside.

The company added up the average time spent outside smoking for five days and then for the year, minus holidays. It found smokers spent just over 39 hours each year smoking outside during work hours, equivalent to an extra week's holiday.

It said those most likely to use work hours for cigarette breaks were aged between 18 and 26, followed by people aged between 59 and 77 and then 43 and 58. The least likely were those aged between 27 and 42.

Workers in Belfast and Southampton were most likely to leave their desk to smoke, while the least likely were those in Norwich and Edinburgh.

In 2021, 13 per cent of people aged over 18 smoked cigarettes, which equates to 6.6 million people, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The same data said almost 8 per cent of people aged over 16 smoked an e-cigarette daily or occasionally.

Unless their contract says differently, employees have no right to smoking breaks. Workers have the right to rest breaks during work time, provided they take place in the middle of the working day and a certain number of hours are worked. Some employers may allow this to be broken up into smaller breaks for smokers.

Markus Lindblad, from Haypp, said: "Smoking laws in the UK have changed a lot over time and different companies have different rules when it comes to leaving work to smoke, with some being stricter than others.

"It's interesting to see that a large proportion of UK smokers are still gaining some extra time away from work to enjoy a cigarette, with some wasting 20 minutes or more every day."

This year it was revealed that Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary, had a taxpayer-funded smoking hut built on the roof of his department office so he could take regular cigarette breaks.

The hut was erected after Gove was surrounded by anti-vaccine campaigners outside his department in October 2021.

Police are said to have advised Gove to find somewhere private to take smoking breaks in the department office because a secure area in the building did not exist.

Workers have been forced to go outside to smoke since 2007 when smoking was banned in any enclosed workplace. Smoking in the workplace can attract a fine of £200 in England and Wales and up to £50 in Scotland.



Human impact on planet 'passing safe limits'

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Humans' impact on the environment is passing safe limits and several critical thresholds have already been breached, an international team of researchers has warned.

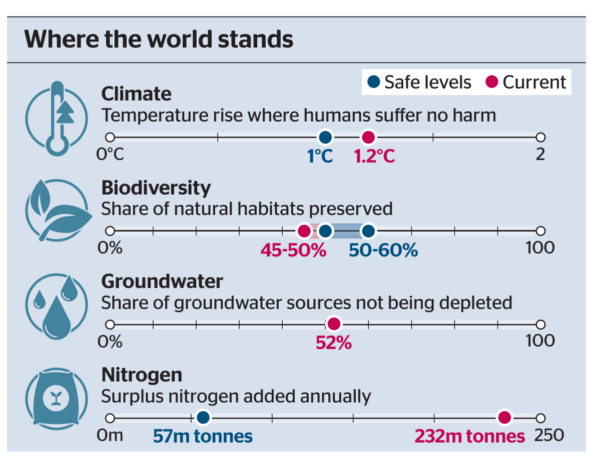
In a study published in the journal Nature, the scientists set out a new framework for tracking changes caused by human activity, including changes in the climate, air quality, the use of artificial fertilisers, the amount of land given over to nature, and how much fresh water is extracted from the ground.

In almost every category, the scientists said, we have passed the threshold after which people suffer significant harm.

The study sets two types of limits, known as Earth system boundaries. The first estimates the maximum change possible without causing catastrophic damage and the collapse of natural systems.

The second limit marks the point at which significant harm is done to people, and is often more stringent. The researchers called this the "just" threshold because it is designed to reflect the maximum change within which fairness can be maintained for the global population.

The study says, for instance, that warming should be limited to 1.5C to avert disaster. However, the "just" level that avoids human suffering is 1C. Since the onset of the industrial revolution, average global temperatures have risen by about 1.2C.



The report also suggests that, to prevent harm to humans, 50 per cent to 60 per cent of Earth's natural habitats should be left intact. This has also been breached, and only 45 per cent to 50 per cent remains.

For groundwater, the report says that we should not extract more than is replaced naturally each year. The safety threshold has already been breached over about half of the Earth, it estimates. The study also suggests that about four times as much surplus nitrogen as is safe is being added to the environment.

Professor Dahe Qin, director of the academic committee at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a co-author of the report, said that Earth was "in danger" as changes to natural systems that may prove to be irreversible — such as the melting of ice on the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau — approach their tipping points.

To defend the West we must win this AI race
Iain Martin
Page 27

Comment

Actions trump words in fight for free speech

The government talks a good game on freedom of expression but is ushering in an era of ever-encroaching censorship

Juliet Samuel



@CITYSAMUEL

'It's exhausting to debate," said the Oxford trans activist. "That's why I'm not in there [debating]. That's why I'm out here protesting instead." When this was put to Kathleen Stock, the gender-critical philosopher who spoke at the Oxford Union this week, she had some characteristically sensible advice for the activist: "She should get her iron levels checked."

Yet somehow, despite their exhaustion, a crowd of Oxford students walked bravely up and down, chanting and holding up placards for several hours to make clear their view that Stock ought not to be allowed to speak. Nonetheless, she did speak, and then they all went home.

On the face of it, the campaign to protect free speech is gaining ground. The government has just appointed a "free speech tsar" to enforce a new law imposing greater obligations on universities to defend vigorous debate. Ministers have thrown their weight behind a legislative change they say would protect employees from the kind of workplace harassment that drove Stock out of Sussex University in 2021. And the Free Speech Union (FSU, for which I'm an unpaid adviser) recently won a record settlement on behalf of a civil servant whistleblower fired for criticising politically extreme "diversity" and "gender ideology" training programmes.

There are, in short, some good things happening, but the government's record is nowhere near as consistent as its rhetoric. Although ministers voice their support for free speech, they preside over a regime of legislative and bureaucratic barriers to the exercising of it — and are adding to them in consequential ways. In some cases, their efforts to help are actively harmful.

The government has, for example, decided to support a private members' bill that would amend the 2010 Equality Act, significantly extending its tentacles. The amendment, tabled by the Liberal Democrat Wera Hobhouse, is ostensibly furthering the aim of "worker protection". At present, employers are liable if their employees get harassed by other staff or managers while working. The amendment would expand the liability to include third parties. So if a customer "misgenders" a trans employee, or a group of drunks in a pub say something racist, the business owner can be held responsible for allowing a "hateful" atmosphere to develop.

> A business owner can be held responsible for a 'hateful atmosphere'

Ministers seem to think this would stop universities from washing their hands of all responsibility for harassment of professors like Stock. But it is obvious that, in practice, a legal change of this type is likely to be used most enthusiastically by precisely those campaigners and grievance-seekers who have so successfully hounded their political opponents out of workplaces over the last few years. One can imagine the cases: the quango staffers who claim they feel "unsafe" because their managers aren't protecting them from robust public criticism; the union suing a pub for failing to display the right Pride flag and observe "trans visibility" day. The inevitable response from employers would be an onslaught of "training" or contractual obligations imposed on customers, threatening penalties if they say something "hateful" or "offensive".

Thanks to FSU efforts, the bill looks likely to run out of parliamentary time before the next election (after which it will no doubt be resurrected by mandarins who have invested time in it). But it is symptomatic of a government that, rather than taking a hacksaw to the expanding jungle of legally enforced ideology, is stuck in the mentality that created it. Rather than adding bells and whistles to the Equality Act, ministers should be reviewing the ways in which it has grown out of control thanks to the latest interpretation of "equality". One employment lawyer reports, for example, that the act's requirement for government suppliers to treat staff fairly is forcing local maintenance firms to sign up to Stonewall's infamous "Diversity Champions" scheme in order to avoid being frozen out of council contracts.

If it is not going to rectify existing legislation, however, the government could at least avoid adding to it. Unfortunately, the Online Safety Bill currently making its way into law opens up a whole new front in the censorship battle, to the disadvantage of unorthodox thinkers and believers in free speech.

Admittedly, the bill has improved on its original form. It began life on the back of tragic cases of children committing suicide after spending far too much time consuming toxic content on social media (the answer here is obvious: get children off phones). It gained momentum as a vehicle for MPs' grievances against nasty people abusing them on Twitter and Facebook. It grew into a monster as officials expanded its remit. And it became unkillable when taken up by Nadine Dorries, one of the few ministers so unquestionably loyal Boris Johnson that she could not be sacked.

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY



Proposed changes to the Equality Act would not have helped Kathleen Stock

Yet despite improvements, the current version (likely to be the final one) still contains effective incentives for social media companies to censor excessively, and inadequate protection for the free-speech rights of people using these platforms. The bill will require tech firms to roll out a set of tools whereby users can filter out content that is "abusive" or "incites hatred" and, if they fail to do so, they can be punished by Ofcom.

As campaigners such as Big Brother Watch have pointed out, this effectively merges Silicon Valley's particular interpretation of acceptable norms, policed by algorithms and hyper-progressive censors, with state enforcement power. Once this approach is run through workplace cultures and corporate structures that demand "psychological safety", "equity", "inclusion" and so on, the likelihood is that a large slice of the UK population is about to get railroaded on to a "safe mode" version of the internet as determined by some computer formula built 5,000 miles away.

> These legal changes will be taken up most by grievance-seekers

Ministers may want to protect academics like Stock and say they believe in a free society upheld by open debate. But they are still adding huge new aspects to a legal edifice in which those who actually want to exercise free speech, whether they be civil servants, academics, workers or students, have to go through months of expensive and stressful legal shenanigans in order to do so. The government's "free speech tsar", Arif Ahmed, is a free-thinking and effective campaigner for his cause and he will hopefully be able to make use of the legislation that created his position. But one officer does not make for a turning tide. The net result of this government's activities is not likely to be a new era of free debate, but an ever-encroaching tide of bureaucracy and censorship.

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Comment

For Gen Z, the appalling artist trumps the art

When you can google a singer or actor's past misdeeds, it takes time to learn to love their work

Susie Goldsbrough



@SGOLDSBROUGH1

What do you do with talented people who do terrible things? How about this: in 2020, a British judge found allegations that Johnny Depp beat his wife to be "substantially true". He was promptly dropped by filmmakers and — fanatical fanbase aside — widely badmouthed. But two weeks ago, after winning a similar court case in the US, Depp signed an advertising deal for Dior Sauvage worth $20 million, then donned a pair of aviators and oozed down the red carpet to open the Cannes Film Festival.

Or this: four years after *Leaving Neverland*, a documentary in which two men accused the late Michael Jackson of abusing them as young children, *MJ: The Musical* ("a case of wilfully not looking at the man in the mirror" — The New York Times) has become a Broadway hit. A West End transfer has just been announced. You can buy your ticket next spring.

Artists are vilified, victims have to watch them rise again. This is the pattern round the "can you separate the art from the artist debate" that surged during MeToo.

Can you enjoy something without endorsing its creator? It's only because we have such a romanticised notion of the artist that we insist they are somehow embodied in their work. But as the mid-century New Critics memorably put it, a poem is much like "a pudding or a machine". It has to function on its merits. This line of thinking works ethically, too: imagine a child who happens upon some of Hitler's paintings and thinks, ooh, pretty. Are they morally contaminated for admiring the work of someone evil? Surely not.

But what about when the art itself is the problem, like the infamous *Last Tango in Paris* scene from which the actress Maria Schneider emerged feeling "a little raped"? Or when it just feels wrong? Some find it difficult to listen to Jackson's music

> In the 18th century, pragmatic anonymity meant creative liberty

after watching *Leaving Neverland*. Or to fire up Tina Turner's banger, *River Deep, Mountain High*, and see the name Ike Turner, the husband who coerced and beat her for years, alongside hers on the credit. Art happens in the heart, not just the head, after all.

In her thoughtful new book, *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma*, the American journalist Claire Dederer calls this effect "the stain". Dederer writes: "When someone says we ought to separate the art from the artist, they're saying: Remove the stain. [But] the stain is simply something that happens. The stain is not a choice."

The internet age is merciless. As Dederer notes: "There is no longer any escaping biography." Algorithms exploit human curiosity, funnelling you away from the art and towards the person behind it. And although the impulse to know things about other people isn't necessarily a bad one ("Gossip may be the beginning of moral inquiry, the low end of the Platonic ladder which leads to self-understanding," wrote the biographer Phyllis Rose), the language of the internet encourages reaction — repugnance, adoration — rather than contemplation. The stain spreads.

Knowing everything (and nothing) is a particularly Gen Z affliction. The image of a child who stumbles across Hitler's paintings is a fantasy of a pre-internet age: today, the kid would raise their phone camera to the work and discover the Holocaust. There is no innocence online.

A writer recently complained to The New Yorker of streaming services' appetite for "second-screen content" — shows designed to be half-watched while you're simultaneously on your phone. One side-effect of being part of Generation Second Screen is that we're well informed about our actors, writers and directors because we're googling them as we go. Which is depressing if the film turns out to have been made by Roman Polanski or funded by Harvey Weinstein.

Previous eras, while no less gossipy, had scarcer information with which to obsess over artists' lives. Until the Romantics came along, the name of the author was often disguised or omitted from a book. More than 80 per cent of novels in the second half of the 18th century were published anonymously, according to one study, particularly those by women. Jane Austen was "A Lady", the Brontës were the Bells, Mary Anne Evans was, famously, George Eliot, a name that shrouded not just her gender but her immoral lifestyle (she lived with a married man) from Victorian disapproval. Pragmatic anonymity meant creative liberty, secure in the knowledge that the reception of their work would not be coloured by their private lives. It's easy to see why Elena Ferrante, author of the popular Neapolitan novels, has tried to retreat to a pre-internet age through a fake name. "Books, once they are written, have no need of their authors," she says.

Anonymous art is indeed, in some sense, the future: when AI starts making films and writing novels, what name will it use? "A Computer"? Until then, we're stuck with overexposed, imperfect and in a few cases contemptible artists.

What to do? One answer is to try to become comfortable with what the poet Sir William Empson called "maintaining oneself between contradictions that can't be solved by analysis". Holding two thoughts in your head at once. And to acknowledge that nastiness tends to dissipate with time. No one cares that Dickens fell in love with his teenage sister-in-law or that Chaucer may have been a rapist. Gossip has to be fresh to be shocking. Someday no one will remember Michael Jackson but they might still dance to *Thriller*.

James Marriott is away

THUNDERER

Shame on the Foreign Office for its Arabist bias

Ben Shaw

I'm an ordinary Jew from northwest London, but I had an extraordinary sister. Lucy Dee's life was filled with good deeds, until she was murdered by gunmen in the West Bank with two of her beautiful, kind and empathetic daughters, my nieces Maia, aged 20, and Rina, 15.

Rishi Sunak said: "The UK condemns this appalling attack on civilians." James Cleverly stated: "I unequivocally condemn this act of terrorism," and added: "There can be no justification for such senseless and abhorrent violence." Suella Braverman and Lord Ahmad, the minister for the Middle East, offered condolences in person within days.

Let's contrast this with the Foreign Office. Its statement was short, dismissive and lacked any moral fibre. "We are saddened to hear about the deaths of two British-Israeli citizens and the serious injuries sustained by a third individual," it said. "The UK calls for all parties across the region to de-escalate tensions." No mention of terror, no outrage. The sisters merely "died" and a third person — Lucy — was somehow injured. (She died of her injuries three days later.) And by urging all parties to de-escalate, it implied, the victims were somehow responsible for their own murder.

Shame on the Foreign Office — it fell well short of what any reasonable governmental body ought to have written. Furthermore, it took almost four weeks to get in touch with me, despite having a department dedicated to overseas homicides. Was it inundated? Clearly not as the last attack that fell under its jurisdiction was in 2022. And officials have been awkward thereafter.

The underlying Arabist sympathy means officials don't always follow the ministerial lead. This creates blind spots when it comes to reacting to atrocities in Israel. But it goes one insidious step further: UK government money sent to the Palestinian authorities, ostensibly to help with education and infrastructure, is often misappropriated or misused. Indeed, the EU passed a resolution for the fourth consecutive year "deploring" Palestinians for producing antisemitic and violent teaching materials.

It is imperative the Foreign Office ensures our taxpayers' money is given on condition it is not used for inappropriate educational materials or stipends for terrorists' families.

I wish to use my family tragedy as a force for good, and for me that is exposing the hypocrisy inside the Foreign Office that allows UK taxpayers' money to support terrorism. In addition, only by the media calling out every act of terror as evil can we change mindsets so Palestinian extremists will cease all terrorism and no other family will have to suffer like ours.

Hilary Rose Notebook

Life's not a picnic with your first smartphone

I've been helping an elderly neighbour with his first foray into smartphones, the better to keep in touch with his grandchildren. When he got back from the phone shop, I suggested we start by texting them his new number. "Good idea," he said. "What is it?" I asked. He assumed it was the same as his landline, that his mobile would magically know where he is and transfer calls when he's out.

Then there was an issue with printing out the crossword. "I keep pressing the little picture of the printer, but nothing happens," he told me. "Where's your printer?" I asked. "It might be jammed." He looked at me, baffled. "I haven't got a printer."

At the age of 82, he is now the proud owner of a printer, and is thoroughly enjoying his steep later-life learning curve. He also embraces the affectionate name that IT help desks reserve for people like him: picnic. It stands for "problem in chair, not in computer".

All systems (no) go

To the cancer hospital for a routine check-up, and my usually chipper surgeon is downcast. His appointments are running hours late, thanks to a new IT system. Like all new IT systems, this one is designed to make life more difficult.

He spends ages trying to print labels for lab samples, one of many tasks that used to be carried out quickly and efficiently by people who are not eminent surgeons. The managers tell him the system works well in America. But in America, he says, they see only four patients an hour. He's expected to see eight.

However, he cheered up enormously when I reminded him that hospital managers always know best. It therefore follows that patient outcomes will definitely be improved by punishing surgeons for their lack of secretarial skills. Why did nobody think of that before?

Hard to stomach



M&S's director of womenswear has won praise for apparently turning its clothes from frumpy to fashionable. She says she wants to produce "items in the wardrobe that mum and daughter both want to wear".

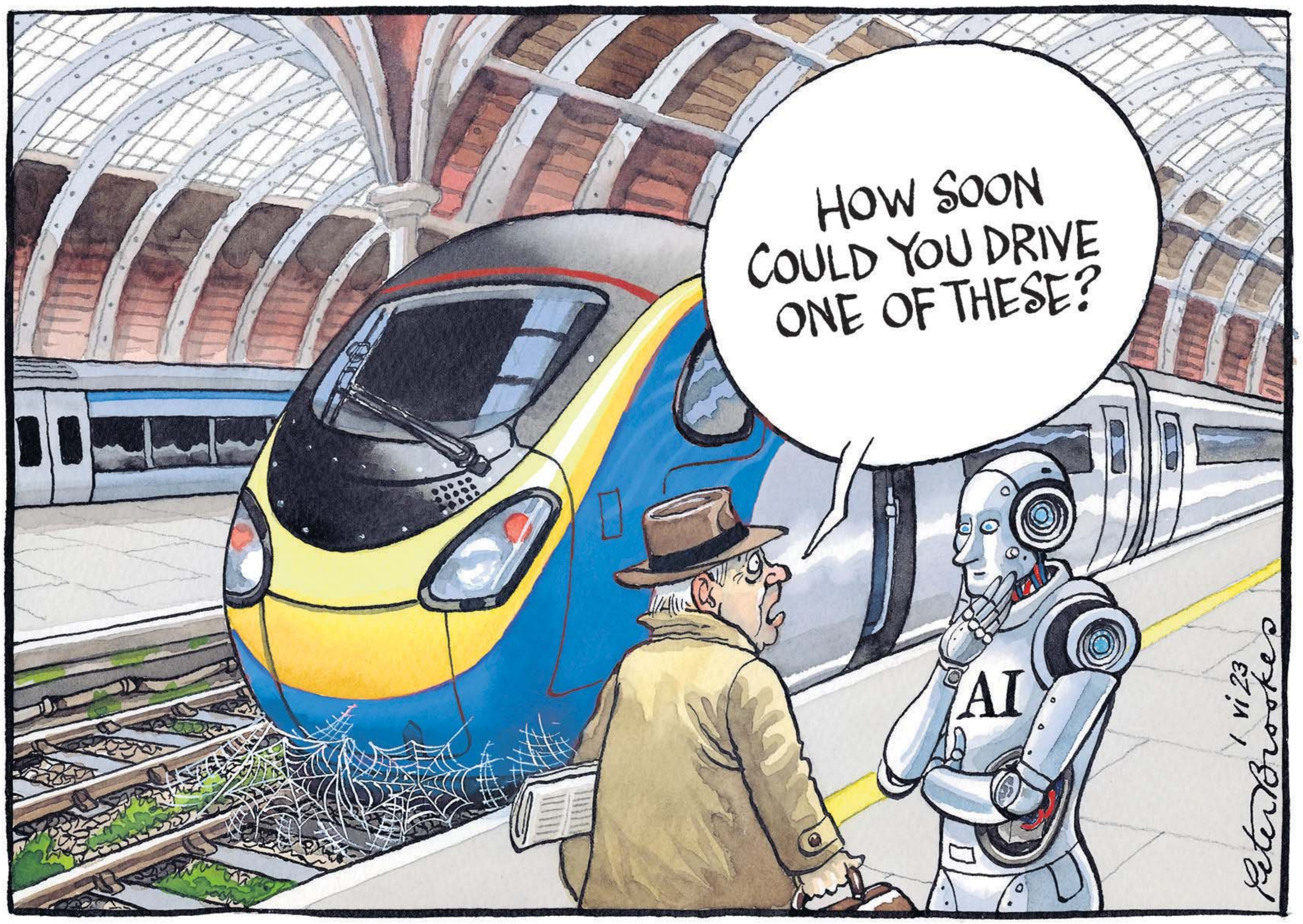
I hate to rain on her parade, but my mother and I fell about laughing in the Kings Road store at the dresses given top billing: backless, strapless, tops that show your bra, sashes, frills, smocked bodices — bring me the smelling salts before you talk to me about smocked bodices — tiered skirts that add inches to your hips, puffy sleeves, all in bright green, yellow, orange … look, I love M&S, but come on. Yellow? Smocking? Really? These dresses will look lovely on all the tanned 20-somethings who don't shop there, but for the rest of us, and anyone with a bust, a pale complexion and a preference for keeping bra straps private, not so much. As for the wider trend for cutouts and crop tops, as a friend said: "I didn't show my stomach when I was 22. It would be unwise to start now."

Hot potatoes

Somewhere under Yorkshire, I read yesterday with interest, scientists are recreating conditions on Mars. I'm more interested, though, by what happens on the surface, specifically at Betty's in York, official supplier of pikelets, fondant fancies and takeaway rösti to the Rose family.

Except when my special envoy arrived to stock up, he made a shocking discovery. They don't do takeaway rösti any more. "But you serve it in the restaurant!" he protested. "Can't you just put some in a pot and sell it to me?" Nope, they said. Something to do with storage.

Everyone seems to be protesting about something, and I've been biding my time until there's an issue I feel sufficiently strongly about. It turns out to be grated potato. Where do you buy placards? When's the next train to York? My right to takeaway rösti is a hill I'm happy to die on.



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To defend the West we must win this AI race

Pausing is not an option when allowing autocracies to gain superiority in these technologies would spell disaster

Iain Martin

@IAINMARTINI



Albert Einstein came to regret his warning to President Roosevelt in August 1939. The Germans had split the atom, he wrote, and the Nazis could try to create nuclear weapons. Roosevelt quickly mobilised America's elite universities and authorised the Manhattan project. (Einstein, ironically, was not among the experts included because he was regarded as a left-wing security risk.) The bomb was built and six years almost to the day from Einstein's warning, President Truman gave the detonation order.

Einstein's letter had triggered a chain reaction in the US government that led to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Cold War arms race. After the war, Einstein told Newsweek: "Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in developing an atomic bomb, I would have done nothing." Well, perhaps, but staying silent would have risked the Soviet Union or the Nazis getting there first.

The bomb and the debate on whether its invention was unstoppable will be big this summer. Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, out on July 21, retells the story of the scientists who masterminded the Manhattan project. Through their labours, mankind acquired the God-like capability to all but eliminate life on earth if its leaders misjudged.

It is tempting to draw a parallel between the creation of the atomic bomb and the potential threat to humanity from artificial intelligence (AI). Despite similarities, though, the threats are not directly analogous. The deployment of the bomb was a singular, dramatic moment in history after which leaders and citizens knew the extent of its power. After a while the major powers agreed treaties and an international diplomatic framework to manage the risks.

> It is tempting to draw a parallel between the atomic bomb and AI

AI leads … where? We can guess at some interesting answers, but AI is so sprawling in its potential, with possibilities, opportunities and risks appearing with ever-quickening speed. Experts in AI are calling for governments to heed the lessons of history and combine immediately to halt or pause its development. The scientists are trying to tell us something.

There is some appeal to the idea of a time-out during which leaders and voters can listen to philosophers, scientists and computing engineers and ponder the options. Sadly, this won't work. It is already too late. The technology is developing much faster than envisaged.

As in the 1940s, the pressing question today is whether or not democratic nations can acquire a balance of superiority in these capabilities over the autocracies. If the West and its allies fail to emerge as the winners of the AI race we will be at the mercy of dictators who can swarm us with 20,000 drones, communicating with each other rather than humans, and picking their own targets. Vast computer power can relentlessly search for weaknesses through which to launch cyber attacks and shut down our financial system or turn out the lights.

Winning this contest does not necessarily mean winning an armed conflict, although there may well be conflicts ahead for which the West must prepare. The aim should be maximum deterrence. Being ahead means that free societies get there first, ahead of dictatorships.

Our primary worry should be practical. Within 20 years our food may be managed by AI. Decisions about what to grow, whether to manufacture more or fewer fish fingers and where to deliver them will be made with little human involvement. Replicate this on the management of the power grid and undersea cables — all eminently hackable and all requiring robust national defence.

This difficult subject came up repeatedly during the London Defence Conference, which I hosted last week with the School of Security Studies at King's College London, featuring academics, policymakers and representatives from the military and industry. There is a lively debate within defence ministries about what the new technology will make possible, and how this should be balanced with more traditional capabilities, such as infantry, tanks and carriers. It covers not just the rise of the drone, as seen in Ukraine, but submarines too. Last year, Australia bought three autonomous submarines, 40ft to 80ft long. Defence experts foresee "wolf packs" of such submarines, able to change course of their own volition, patrolling the Pacific.

> Our leaders talk a lot about climate change, but this issue is bigger

The computerised systems that power these weapons are becoming more autonomous — that is, they will steadily require fewer human inputs or prompts to operate. Who does the prompting when the machines learn at a dizzying speed and will communicate with each other in ever more sophisticated ways? Once AI fuses with quantum computing (computing made ever faster with vastly more calculations) it will be so powerful that it will be difficult to direct, regulate and control.

Much of the debate has centred so far on the question of whether the machines will come to be cleverer than their masters and develop feelings and desires. My concern is not so much the question of the machines becoming sentient. Human sentiment and feeling will still be powerful in art, culture and creativity, in the search for the sublime, in friendship and family, in religion — and, one hopes, in government too.

These are the enormous ethical dilemmas confronting our leaders. We hear a lot from them about climate change, and from the global industry dedicated to stopping it. But this — the need to beat the autocracies in the AI arms race and work out in the process how we might retain human control — is bigger than even that. It is the key challenge. This is a dangerous race and we have to win.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

The dangers of AI

Sir, In "AI pioneers fear extinction" (May 31) experts warn that artificial intelligence could lead to the extinction of humanity. These dangers were recognised by the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, who formulated three laws programmed into all robotic brains in his stories: a robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm; a robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the first law; a robot must protect its own existence, as long as such protection does not conflict with the first or second law.

Clearly, what we need is an international law to ensure that AI systems follow the laws of robotics.
David Walmsley
Wokingham, Berks

Sir, Calling the present generation of advanced machine-learning systems "intelligent" is surely a serious misnomer. These systems cannot tell reality from fantasy; they cannot tell good from evil; they cannot process abstract concepts; and they cannot process values and morals. They are therefore not truly intelligent in any normal sense of the word. This makes them more like demons than gods. Calling them advanced machine-learning systems would help humanity to deal with them more realistically. They may be ultra-powerful, but they are very far from being truly intelligent and therefore need appropriate and careful human control.
The Rev Canon Charles Jenkin
Bury St Edmunds

Pay for doctors

Sir, It is not the case that the average NHS consultant earns £128,000 a year ("50 per cent rise would be a drop in the ocean, claims BMA chief", news, May 27; letter, May 31). The starting salary — after the best part of ten to 15 years in training — is £88,000. The final salary — after 19 years as a consultant — is £119,000. While I appreciate that some consultants work privately in addition to their NHS duties, or have clinical excellence awards, which both provide additional income, this is by no means the case for everyone.
Dr Siobhan Carroll
Consultant anaesthetist, Surrey

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Kathleen Stock and the issue of free speech

Sir, All credit to the Oxford Union both for inviting Professor Kathleen Stock to speak and then standing firm against calls to cancel her (news and leading article, May 31). It has been the angel taking a stand for free speech when fools rushed away.

The union's courage contrasts with the dispiriting willingness of those who refuse to accept there can be a plurality of views. Even more astonishing is the number of students who seem to welcome intellectual dictatorship. I wonder what has happened to curiosity, libertarianism and the frisson of forceful debate.
Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain
Maidenhead Synagogue

Sir, Kathleen Stock is to be congratulated for having the courage to say what most people believe about freedom of speech, and the controversy surrounding trans rights. The Oxford Union also deserves praise for refusing to be bullied by activists. It is to be hoped that other organisations will follow this example and not allow activists to disrupt events and prevent genuine freedom of speech, simply because they disagree with the sentiments being expressed.
David Kidd
Petersfield, Hampshire

Sir, It is profoundly depressing to read that Kathleen Stock and Baroness Falkner of Margravine, chairwoman of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, are being subject to pressure and harassment from trans activists for asserting the reality and importance of biological sex over gender self-identity ("Foul tactics won't move determined Falkner", comment, May 27). That it is necessary to do this is indicative of the extent to which the trans lobby been successful in institutional capture. Neither of them is remotely transphobic; they simply wish to assert that biological sex is a scientific fact with major social implications, not a social construct that can be changed at will.
Emeritus Professor Chris Hamnett
King's College London

Sir, Students at Oxford have every right to express their views on anything but they must not deny the rights of others to express views with which they disagree. If they want respect they must also respect others if they hope to enjoy a democratic society. They wouldn't want to live in such places as Hong Kong or North Korea and be punished severely for demonstrating.
Jonathan Longstaff
Buxted, E Sussex

Sir, Oxford faced a similar situation in the mid-1960s when the issue was apartheid. The South African ambassador was invited to speak at an event and protesters were out in force, but the police ensured that he was given the chance to air his views.
Andrew McClintock
Tonbridge, Kent

Sir, Perhaps those who disrupted the talk at the Oxford Union by Kathleen Stock could explain who gave them the right and responsibility of deciding what others may see or listen to. Maybe these protesters self-identify as latter-day lord chamberlains.
Alan Blackwood
Stalybridge, Greater Manchester

Entitlement to titles

Sir, I disagree with the suggestion by Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood (letter, May 31) that High Court judges require a knighthood to "give them additional standing and authority" over circuit judges. If they require an honorific to show people they have authority, they are in the wrong job. There are more than 30 judicial titles in England and Wales; other countries manage perfectly well without such a proliferation. If the title became "judge", I am sure people could still work out that a Court of Appeal judge has more authority than a county court judge. We need to demystify the judiciary, not give out baubles to protect their standing and authority.
Professor Alisdair A Gillespie
Lancaster University Law School

Sir, Your leading article "Gong Show" (May 27) referred to diplomats looking forward to the delights of St Michael and St George just for "doing one's job. As others do." My late husband, Sir Brian Barder, thought that honours shouldn't come just for doing a job for which he was paid and had no interest in becoming a knight. He therefore turned down offers of honours for his roles as ambassador to Ethiopia then Poland and high commissioner of Nigeria, although a number of Nigerians considered this a downgrading of the country's importance (letter, May 31). Eventually, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office told him that the Australians would not accept a high commissioner who wasn't of KCMG standard. At that stage Brian decided to accept his fate and become a Sir.
Lady Barder
Earlsfield SW18

Student migration

Sir, "Coming Clean" (leading article, May 26) is right to note that the UK "suffers from migrant schizophrenia", and the case of international students is an important example. They bring £42 billion to the UK economy, pump money into universities but have come under attack as the government look to reduce net migration figures.

The approach is nonsensical. It suggests we are trying to cut their numbers, which is at odds with the government's international education strategy that sets a target to increase them. It also ignores a more effective measure: remove international students from net migration figures; their residence is temporary. This would align the UK with the US and Australia, our fierce competitors for international students.
James Pitman
Destination for Education

Mental health calls

Sir, I worked as an approved mental health professional. While we have the legal power to detain a patient who is refusing hospital admission, we are not trained or equipped to physically restrain a patient, unlike police officers. If the police cease to attend these situations (news, May 30, letters, May 31), there must be serious consideration of how to replace officers' input, to ensure the safety of all those involved.
Julian Bowerman
Ringwood, Hants

Sir, I spent many hours in hospital corridors assisting people who presented with mental illness only to find the behaviour was drug-induced and that as the effects wore off the person was often shocked, grateful and apologetic that they had wasted my time. A&Es will need to be sufficiently resourced to "waste time" with such people, now police won't.
Richard Hill
Ret'd Met police constable,
Hitchin, Herts

ENERGETIC DIXIE CABARET

FROM THE TIMES JUNE 1, 1923

Dover Street to Dixie, the new revue at the Pavilion, is a queer mixture of black and white and of East and West. Mr C B Cochran has brought from America the "Plantation Company" of coloured artists, with Miss Florence Mills as its shining light, and has added to it a company of British actors and actresses with the intention of creating a homogeneous entertainment. Having gone so far, however, to bring about a theatrical League of Nations, he then proceeds to separate the two component parts of his production as vigorously as though the sea were still between them. The first part of the revue is devoted to the British artists. Then there is an interval, and after that the artists in the first part are never seen again, for the coloured company bears the rest of the entertainment on its own shoulders.

The two sections are divided as scrupulously as the "mortals" and "immortals" in the programme of a pantomime, and the result is not altogether to the good. We are always expecting the British artists to reappear, and as they never do some disappointment is inevitable. That, however, is no reflection on the company from America, for, it must be admitted that at present they form easily the most entertaining and convincing part of the production. Dixie quite overshadows Dover Street. They give a conventional kind of cabaret entertainment, but infuse into all their work such energy and cleverness that they always succeed in gripping — and holding — the attention. Miss Mills, in particular, is endowed with a great deal of personality but all the members of the company work as though each one was its principal, and this, perhaps, is the secret of their success. When the attendant "Jazz" band is a little more subdued, the entertainment will be even better.

The first part of the revue at present is a trifle dreary. It contains several good ideas and one or two amusing songs, but Mr Cochran is too good a "showman" to let it remain as it is for very long. Mr Stanley Lupino does his best with some poor material, and so do Miss Marjorie Brooks and Miss Mabel Green. Mr Lloyd Garrett, sings well and Miss Odette Myrtil not only plays the violin with great skill but is always vivacious.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

In praise of grans

Sir, Your leading article "Great Grandmothers" (May 31) acknowledges that "everybody knows that grannies make life nicer" and, as a grandmother, to have scientific support for our reason for being is a wonderful thing. Many grandmothers have an active role in caring for their grandchildren and supporting working parents — the cost of childcare is prohibitive for many low-paid workers. My daughter, granddaughter and I live together. My daughter is a full-time NHS midwife, and I care for my school-age granddaughter. At at a time in life when I could be lonely, I am not; nor am I bored and I have not outlived my usefulness. We all benefit; the short-staffed NHS benefits too.
Carolyn Lees
Hampton

Sir, Scientific studies offer a justification for grannies (news, May 31). Not only do they take on a considerable amount of grandchildren-rearing but pass on a long-life gene. Yet to be old and a woman in today's society is to be at best invisible or at worst an old crone. We need a granny revolution or a strike, not only scientific research, to show just how important we really are.
Janice Ketley
Englefield Green, Surrey

Better recycling

Sir, Ministers are approaching the problem of waste that can't be recycled from the wrong end (news, May 31). Recycling companies must invest in new strategies to recycle more varieties of waste. A good example is polystyrene packaging, which can be recycled locally here in Sheffield. Sadly, this facility is not made available to the public.
Jonathan Beard
Sheffield

Welcoming signs

Sir, Matthew Parris writes of unimaginative county road signs (notebook, May 31). Given that Laugharne in my home county supposedly inspired Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, there could be nothing better than, "Welcome to Carmarthenshire: To begin at the beginning …"
Huw Beynon
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire

Game for anything

Sir, I asked the chef stirring an enormous pot at a venue providing meals for homeless people how he might use some pheasant donated by a well-known London emporium (letters, May 31). "Chicken stew," he said, nodding at the pot. "Delicious."
David Reece
Brook, Kent

Cutting ties

Sir, Archbishop Runcie became increasingly tetchy as I interviewed him in the 1980s about the ordination of women. The TV camera switched off, the former Cambridge college dean pointed to my pink-striped tie (letters, May 26, 30 & 31) and said he really hadn't expected such a stiff encounter from an Emmanuel College man. I didn't go to Cambridge and the tie was from Marks and Spencer.
Bruce Parker
BBC News 1967-2003
Appleshaw, Hants

Daily Universal Register

Moldova: Rishi Sunak attends the second European Political Community Summit, hosted by Moldova, involving 47 countries.
UK: London Festival of Architecture begins.

Nature notes



Bird names are fascinating. Some are gloriously onomatopoeic, such as the kittiwake, which perfectly captures the screaming call of this seabird. Many are habit descriptive, like the turnstone. Some are dishonest — the oystercatcher doesn't catch oysters. And some are richly poetic, like the knot. Breeding in the Arctic, the knot is a winter visitor to Britain, where it lives on estuaries, mudflats and even beaches. At first hearing, this name might sound unremarkable, but knot is actually a contraction of Canute, who famously showed that even kings can't control the tide. These little wading birds are often seen hugging the ebbing tide, foraging on the glinting sand as the water recedes.
JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Tom Robinson, *pictured*, singer-songwriter, *2-4-6-8 Motorway* (1977), 73; **Tim Bentinck, Earl of Portland**, actor, David Archer in *The Archers* (BBC Radio 4), 70; **Lady (Jill) Black of Derwent**, DBE, justice of the Supreme Court (2017-21), 69; **Johnnie Boden**, founder of clothing company Boden, 62; **Pat Boone**, singer, *Love Letters in the Sand* (1957), and actor, 89; **Brian Cox**, actor, *Troy* (2004), 77; **Ron Dennis**, founder and chairman (1984-2017), McLaren Technology Group, 76; **Marlon Devonish**, athlete, Olympic gold medallist (2004) 47; **Jason Donovan**, actor, *Neighbours* (1986-89), and singer, 55; **Dame Sarah Falk**, lady justice of appeal, 61; **Lord (Norman) Foster of Thames Bank**, OM, architect, chairman and founder, Foster and Partners, 88; **Morgan Freeman**, actor, *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), 86; **Tom Holland**, actor, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2021), 27; **Heidi Klum**, model, 50; **Prof Dame Parveen Kumar**, gastroenterologist, president, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (2013-20), 81; **David Lan**, playwright, artistic director, Young Vic (2000-18), 71; **Dame Ruth May**, chief nursing officer for England, 56; **Sir David McVicar**, opera and theatre director, 57; **Alanis Morissette**, singer, *Ironic* (1996), 49; **Markus Persson**, co-creator, Minecraft, 44; **Robert Powell**, actor, *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977), 79; **Sir Jonathan Pryce**, actor, *The Two Popes* (2019), 76; **John Pullinger**, chairman, Electoral Commission, national statistician and chief executive, UK Statistics Authority (2014-19), 64; **Gerald Scarfe**, cartoonist, The Sunday Times (1967-2017), and illustrator, 87; **Bob Seely**, Conservative MP for Isle of Wight, 57; **Nigel Short**, chess grandmaster, FIDE director for chess development, 58; **Kip Thorne**, theoretical physicist, Nobel prize in physics (2017), 83; **Ronnie Wood**, Rolling Stones guitarist, 76; **Baroness (Lola) Young of Hornsey**, actress and arts consultant, chairwoman, Man Booker Prize for Fiction (2017), 72.

On this day

In **1973** the military government in Greece announced the abolition of the monarchy, formally deposing Constantine II, the last king of the Hellenes.

The last word

"June is bustin' out all over." Oscar Hammerstein II, American songwriter, title of song in the musical *Carousel* (1945)

Electric Dreams

Britain's charging infrastructure for electric vehicles is woefully underdeveloped. Ministers must give drivers and the motor industry more time to adapt

The case for electric vehicles, of which there are now 1.1 million on British roads, ought to be self-evident. Environmentally sustainable modes of transport are good for the planet, and for air quality. Britain will not meet its net zero targets without them. But ministers will inevitably find that encouraging or indeed compelling motorists to give up their petrol or diesel cars for battery-driven equivalents is an unwinnable fight unless the country's infrastructure catches up. Alas, as The Times reported yesterday, this is not yet the case.

At the end of 2021 there were 31 electric cars on the road across the UK for every public charger. By the end of last year, that ratio had increased to 36 to one. In all but one region the gap between electric vehicles and charging infrastructure has widened. In some areas it has more than doubled. In the northwest it stands at an impractically lopsided 85 EVs to one charger – compared with 49 to one last year.

Which prospective car buyer, upon seeing these figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, would gamble on an electric vehicle? That demand is now significantly outpacing the development of infrastructure is proof that motorists want to do the right thing by the environment. But working Britons cannot afford to gamble their livelihoods on good intentions. In general, drivers of petrol or diesel vehicles do not need to worry about finding a place to refuel. For owners of electric equivalents "range anxiety", resulting from the sparsity of chargers, can mean that the greatest asset of owning a car, flexibility, is lost.

It was once said that drivers who bought electric vehicles seldom gave them up, such was the superior driving experience. That, say industry experts, is no longer true. And the longer this lack of charge points is allowed to persist, the likelier it is that motorists will return to the devil they know. No inner-city tradesman living in a home without a private driveway can be blamed for resisting calls to give up their diesel van in favour of an EV if they cannot be confident of powering it up. This is especially true now that the initial subsidies that made electric vehicles attractive to buy are fizzling away.

It augurs badly for the transition from conventional fuels to batteries that ministers appear to believe they can will into existence by decree. New pure combustion engine cars will be banned in 2030. How, on current evidence, could the government possibly argue that the country is ready for this cliff edge? It is increasingly clear that Boris Johnson's decision to bring forward the 2030 deadline from 2035 was, characteristically, rash. The aim was laudable but motorists are paying the price for an all too familiar mismatch between rhetoric and solid planning and implementation.

Now is the time for honesty. Britain's next government, whatever its political leaning, will be burdened with a target it manifestly cannot meet. It should put practicality before symbolism and revert to the original 2035 deadline. Voters will thank them for it. After all, 2035 is still the deadline for banning new hybrid cars. Government and the automotive industry must use this extra time to build a network of charging points that is as accessible as petrol stations are now. Chargers must not only be vastly more numerous but faster, to minimise interruptions on long journeys.

It will not be as simple as throwing cash at the problem, though subsidies, tax incentives and legally binding targets for manufacturers are solutions worth considering. While car companies have mandatory targets for the sale of electric vehicles, there is no obligation to develop charging infrastructure. This is an obvious fix — those who will profit from the transition must help shoulder the cost. Unachievable ambitions do more harm than good to a cause with which few disagree. Ministers should recognise that industry and a sceptical public need more time.

Vox Populi

A right-wing populist party could soon be the powerbroker in Spain

The performance of right-wing populism in recent years has been uneven. Donald Trump in America and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil have both lost at the ballot box, while Britain's proponent of this ill-defined creed, Boris Johnson, was slain by his own hand. But on other fronts populism is holding firm or advancing. Hungary and Poland are still in its thrall, and so is Turkey after the narrow victory of President Erdogan. Italy, meanwhile, has fallen for one-time Mussolini admirer Giorgia Meloni and her Brothers of Italy party. She consolidated her hold on power this month, trouncing left-wing opponents in local elections.

Now, Spain is flirting with a party that espouses cultural and economic nationalism, combined with social conservatism. Vox will not come first in the snap general election called by socialist prime minister Pedro Sánchez for July 23 (the timing of which has infuriated many in a country used to decamping en masse to the seaside to escape the heat of the interior). But it is on course to become the powerbroker in a future government, re-establishing Spain's relationship with hard-right politics nearly half a century after the death of Francisco Franco, who in most eyes did little to advance the brand.

Vox has emerged stronger from this weekend's regional and local elections, coming third in a contest that resulted in a resounding defeat for Mr Sánchez's left-of-centre coalition. It is now well positioned for a role in government as the second string in a future administration led by the Popular Party, from which it split a decade ago. If Mr Sánchez falls and a PP-Vox coalition is formed, Spain will be partially governed by an entity intent on turning back the clock.

Combative on the issues of immigration and feminism, Vox espouses a return to a more traditional Spain, Catholic, paternalistic and centralised, rid of the regional tier of government that it blames for waste and corruption, and fostering breakaway sentiment in Catalonia and the Basque region. Though hostile to globalisation and greater political integration with the European Union, Vox is not overly loud on the EU topic in a country that is strongly Europhile. But it wants to boost Spain's declining population with home-grown babies, and just maybe immigrants from Latin America willing to conform to its ideal of a Spain for the Spanish. Of course, Muslims are not welcome in this world, and gay couples would not be accorded the right of full marriage. Only in the regions of Castile and León has Vox so far enjoyed actual power, as the junior partner to the Popular Party. Such coalitions are possible in at least five of Spain's 17 regions but the PP is understood to be reluctant to seal any deals before the general election in July, lest it be tainted by association with a party that repels moderate voters. Still, electoral mathematics suggest that deals will have to be done if the right is to gain power.

Like all populist movements, Vox is fuelled by a largely inchoate discontent with the status quo. Spaniards tend to decry the situation in their country while ignoring the enormous progress that the kingdom has made since fascism's departure. For example, Spain is rated among the top ten countries in the world for quality of infrastructure. Santiago Abascal, the Vox leader, promises the Spain of "fathers and grandfathers". For those who recall the drab repression of Franco, that is not such a great sell.

In Praise of Tinkering

Even in a high-tech digital age, hobbyist inventors still have a role

Nick Bailey, admittedly, is a trained engineer. Then again, he did come up with Boost, the kit which converts an ordinary bicycle into an e-bike, while killing time at home during lockdown. Bailey's breakthrough (which is fireproof, unlike some other bike batteries) started life following hours of experimentation with a second-hand motor, spare electronics and a 40-year-old push-bike. It is a triumph of dogged solo trial and error, as opposed to mega-expensive corporate R&D.

Bailey makes the point that, despite decades of increasingly complicated technological specialisation, the great British tradition of tinkering is alive and well. In the realm of public policy, tinkering is rightly understood as negative, an inadequate response to a problem. At the individual level, however, out in the garage or up in the attic, tinkering, suitably organised, is wholly positive. Whether hunched under a bonnet, cracking codes online or stargazing in the shed it is always a joy and sometimes a revelation, as with those citizen astronomers who regularly, and accurately, report their discoveries to Nasa.

The amateur and the accidental have a long pedigree in scientific progress. Everyone knows how Alexander Fleming came to develop penicillin. William Herschel, a musician by trade, discovered Uranus having made his own telescope. Gregor Mendel wrote the laws of genetics while living as an Augustinian friar. Despite no formal science education Michael Faraday came up, inter alia, with the electric motor, electric generator, electroplating and electrolysis.

The pacemaker, inkjet printer, saccharin, vulcanised rubber, microwave oven, Cornflakes, cellophane, Bakelite plastic and Teflon all originated by happenstance to some degree. And now Mr Bailey is poised to enter the pantheon of tinkerers. Long may they thrive.

World

These are last days of Sánchez, says Spain's kingmaker

Vox's strong showing in local polls raises the prospect of a deal with conservatives, writes **Isambard Wilkinson**

The shadow of Spain's hard-right Vox party is looming over a snap general election due in July. Pedro Sánchez, the Socialist prime minister, would not have it any other way.

The left is seeking to raise the spectre of the dangers of the "far right" in power, depicting Vox as a throwback to the era of the dictator Francisco Franco, hoping to claw back votes after humiliating defeats in Sunday's regional and municipal elections.

Vox, which doubled its share of the vote in the elections and now stands to enter several regional governments with the conservative Popular Party (PP), believes that Sánchez is finished and that its time has arrived to co-govern Spain. The third biggest party in parliament, it posted the most-improved performance of any party on Sunday and is in a kingmaker position.

"These are the last days of Sánchez, I have no doubt," Ignacio Garriga, Vox's secretary general, said. "He knows the more time that passes, the more certain the writing of his government's death certificate will be."

Sánchez, who on Monday dissolved parliament and brought the national election forward from December, yesterday tried to lump the two parties together, saying there was "no difference" between PP and Vox, and calling their coalition an "extreme right-wing tandem".

He warned of a global "reactionary trend", urging Spaniards to decide if "they want a prime minister on the side of Biden or Trump, on the side of Lula or Bolsonaro".

Alberto Feijóo, the PP leader, who has sought a moderate line and previously said that his ambition is to avoid a coalition with Vox, has not commented on any such alliance since the election was called. "Absolute majorities are my favourite thing," he said. He aims to avoid sealing regional government coalition deals with Vox before the poll to minimise their toxic effects on centrist voters.

"The Popular Party is scared as usual. They are cowards," said Garriga. "They are afraid of what the left and the media say, but they must choose with whom they are going to govern — and if they will conform with the will of the people to give an alternative to the Socialists, or not." The polls favour the possibility of the PP governing in coalition with Vox. "We have a hand extended to the Popular Party. We will do all we can to make a coalition happen," said Garriga. "They will need us."

The PP and Vox share positions on key issues such as an antipathy towards the government's pacts with the far-left and Basque and Catalan separatist parties. But the two parties diverge on issues such as feminism and immigration, on which Vox holds views that appal moderate conservatives.

Led by Santiago Abascal, 47, a career politician from the Basque country, Vox was formed in 2013 amid outrage over the PP's compliance with the European Court of Human Rights' instruction to release convicted Basque terrorists. It has caused a crisis in the conservative party, which has by turns attacked it and shifted its politics towards it.

Its popularity soared over its attacks on a failed independence bid by the pro-separatist Catalan regional government in 2017. It gained support over its opposition to Sánchez's pardoning jailed separatist Catalan leaders and to the deals he struck with their parties.

Vox's vitriol against the Socialists' alliance with Bildu — the former political wing of Eta, the now defunct Basque terrorist group — which is in the ascendant in the northern region, has also won over voters.

Garriga has argued it is other policies that have boosted Vox's support: "Due to our electoral success, at last millions of Spaniards will have a voice on issues that from the left to the Popular Party nobody wants to talk about: the problems of immigration, insecurity, the decay of public services and the decades-long waste of public money by the political establishment."

The left's characterisation of Vox as fascist and far right — labels that it rejects — was "demonisation, a lie, because they are incapable of arguing with our political proposals".

Vox has come under repeated criticism for using racist and anti-Islamic images in its anti-immigration campaigns as well as for spreading fake news, such as claiming that the government's new animal welfare law intended to legitimise bestiality and that sexual assaults had doubled since Sánchez came to power.

Echoing Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric, Abascal has called for a wall to be built around the Spanish north African territories of Ceuta and Melilla and for it be paid for by Morocco.

He has also called for a ban on medical procedures such as gender change and abortion under the public health system and wants to repeal the law on gender violence, claiming it discriminates against men.

The party made particular gains with the government's botched consent law, drafted by the far-left Podemos party, its coalition partner, which led to the reduction of sentences or freeing of more than 1,000 sex offenders.

Economically ultra-liberal, Vox's Trumpist calls to "make Spain great again", to intensify diplomatic efforts to return Gibraltar to Spain and to repeal Sánchez's democratic memory law — which bans Franco-era symbols — have stirred right-wing voters.

But can the PP and Vox work together? Garriga pointed to the parties' governing right-wing coalition formed in the Castile y León region last year. It was here that Vox's most contested initiative was launched: a proposal to offer women seeking an abortion a 4D ultrasound scan to try to discourage them from going ahead with the procedure. The plan was swiftly condemned by the government and the PP backed down.

Vox wants to emulate the success of Italy's Giorgia Meloni. "She is conducting sensible politics, responding to their nation's interests," said Garriga.

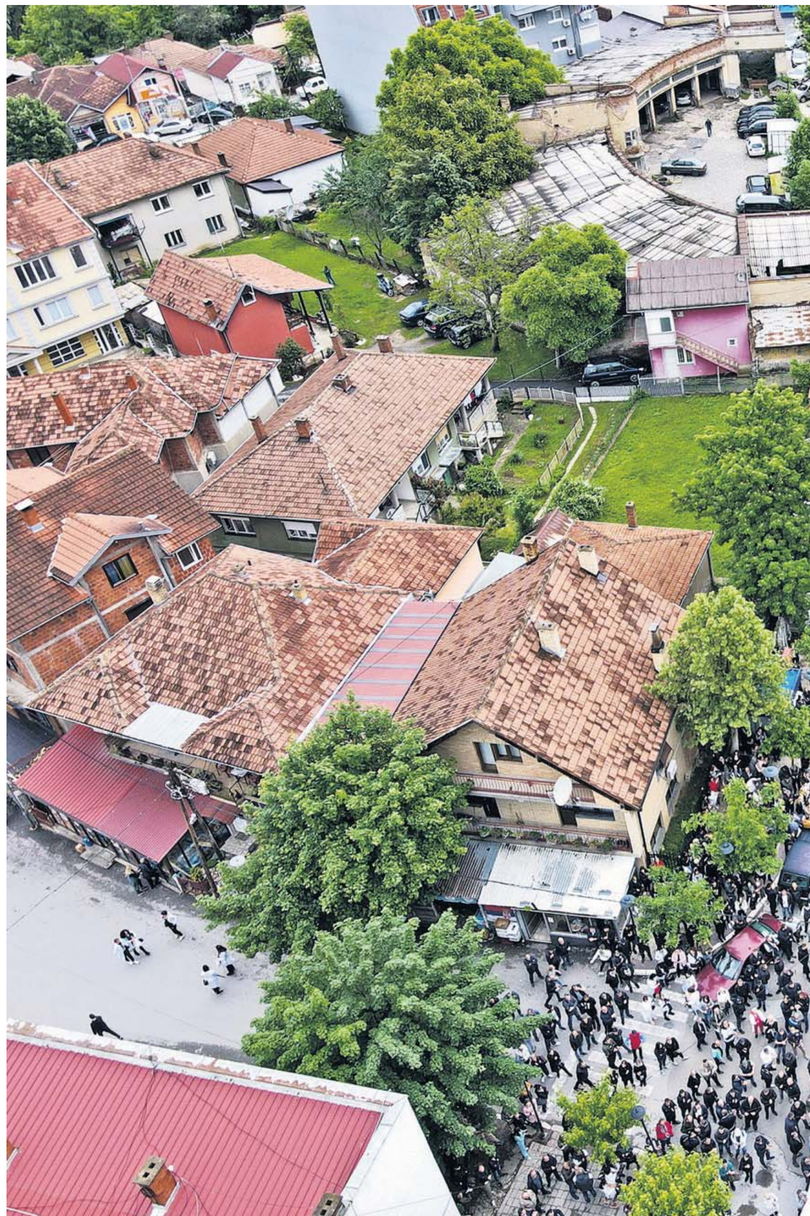
But Sánchez has calculated that many Spaniards would be aghast at having Abascal as deputy prime minister.

"There is also another problem," said a senior Spanish official. "Like Podemos, they are incompetent."

Vox set to be powerbrokers, leading article, page 29



Santiago Abascal, left, echoes Trumpist rhetoric that Pedro Sánchez hopes will deter voters



US rebukes Kosovo over border clashes

Kosovo's western allies have urged it to back down in its confrontation with Moscow-backed ethnic Serbian protesters, accusing its leadership of escalating tensions (Tom Kington and Richard Spencer write).

The United States, the main security guarantor for the Balkan state, announced on Tuesday that Kosovo would be expelled from a long-planned Nato-led military exercise.

Defender 23 would have involved more than 20 countries and was intended to promote cooperation between Nato members and friendly states such as Kosovo.

"For Kosovo, this exercise is over," Jeffrey Hovenier, the US ambassador said, a mark of the Biden administration's displeasure with Albin

Eight hundred UFOs

United States
Jacqui Goddard Miami

Almost 98 per cent of reported UFO sightings can be explained away, but a lack of high-quality data is hampering researchers' ability to apply "rigorous scientific scrutiny" to solving the mystery, a Nasa panel was told yesterday.

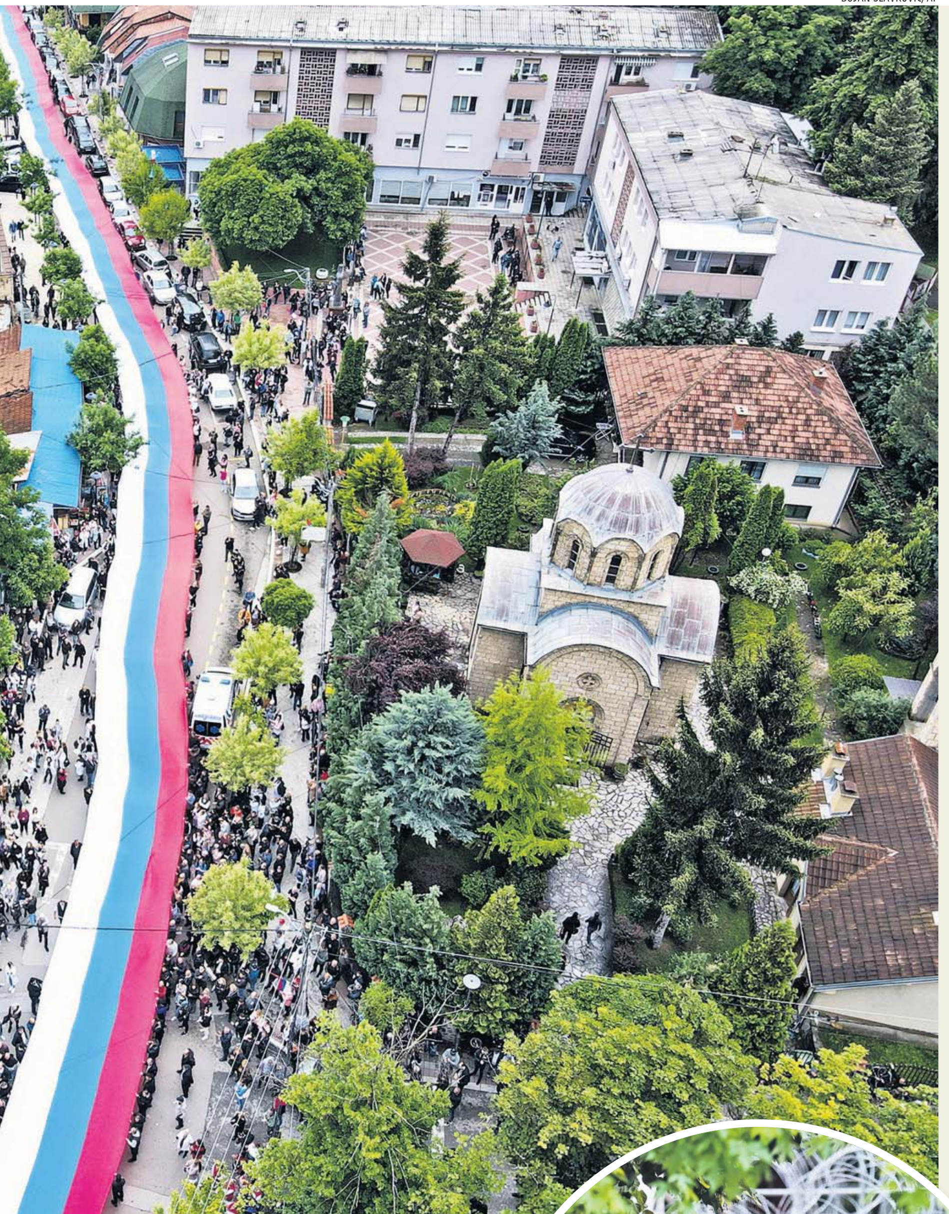
Meeting in public for the first time, Nasa's independent study team on unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs) — formerly known as UFOs — said that separating fact from fiction was a priority, but that "unsystematic and fragmented" data collection and the stigma associated with reporting such episodes were key obstacles.

"To understand UAPs better, targeted data collection, thorough data curation and robust analyses are needed. Even then, there's no guarantee that all sightings will be explained," David Spergel, the panel's chairman, said.

"There's a real stigma among people reporting events and, despite Nasa's extensive effort to reduce this stigma, the origin of many UAPs remain unclear and we feel many remain unreported. If I were to summarise in one line what I feel we've learnt, it's 'We need high-quality data'," he said. The

Informant who revealed suspect's location dies
Page 32

'German Atlantis' is charted for first time
Page 33



BOJAN SLAVKOVIC/AP

A giant Serbian flag is raised in Zvecan, northern Kosovo, in protest over Albanian mayors being imposed in ethnic Serbian areas. Protesters had clashed with UN forces, below



Kurti, the Kosovan prime minister, over the crisis, which led to clashes between Serbian protesters and UN peacekeepers on Monday.

President Macron of France also intervened, saying Kosovo had ignored a EU-led attempt to broker a deal between Kosovo and Serbia involving the fate of Serbian-majority areas in the north of Kosovo. The clashes were prompted when Kurti insisted on installing ethnic Albanian mayors in Serbian-majority towns where Serbs had boycotted municipal elections.

"Very clearly, the Kosovar authorities are responsible for the current situation, and for failing to respect an agreement that was important and that was sealed just a few weeks ago," Macron said.

European officials spoke to Kurti at a meeting in the Slovakian capital, Bratislava. Macron said he intended to meet President Osmani of Kosovo, Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, and President Vucic of Serbia at a further meeting in Moldova today.

The US and the EU have been key supporters of Kosovo's independence from Serbia, which is still not recognised by Belgrade, or by Russia and China.

On Monday, peacekeepers from Italy and Hungary fought Serbian protesters who lobbed petrol bombs and tried to enter the town hall in Zvecan.

Kurti said he would not withdraw the mayors or security forces but hinted at a potential compromise, saying he might take note of peaceful protests for early elections.

The violence prompted fears of another front opening in the West's clash with Russia, which supports Serbia, as Belgrade put its military on alert and sent more troops to the Kosovan border.

reported to Nasa in past 17 years

16-member scientific panel includes some of the world's leading scientists, data analysts and artificial intelligence practitioners, and experts in aerospace and aviation.

It was formed last year to examine unclassified UAP episodes from a purely scientific perspective and to come up with better ways to solicit and co-ordinate future investigations using hard data, technology and scientific tools. Its final report is due for release this summer.

While Nasa's panel is spearheading the civilian, unclassified side of the effort, the US Department of Defence also convened a government body last year — the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) — to examine UAPs in co-ordination with the intelligence and military communities.

About 800 UAPs have been reported over 17 years, but only 2 to 5 per cent are considered "possibly really anomalous", Dr Sean Kirkpatrick, the head of AARO, said.

By analysing factors such as heating and lighting conditions that existed at the time of a UAP, some incidents can be explained. Satellites or distant aircraft, for example, may appear closer than they are and give the impression of being something more sinister, and sensors or cameras can be prone to "jittering" and provide a false perspective. Some may be atmospheric phenomena such as sprites — electrical discharges above storm clouds. "This is the kind of thing that can spoof, or provide misperceptions," Kirkpatrick said.

Nasa stated when it convened its panel last year that there was "no evidence that UAPs are extraterrestrial". But for their efforts in trying to apply scientific reasoning to unexplained phenomena, members of the panel have faced "disheartening" harassment online, Nasa leaders said.

Just 13 miles from Ukraine, leaders show unity for Zelensky

Moldova
Bruno Waterfield Chisinau

The airspace over Moldova is closed to all civilian aircraft as Rishi Sunak and at least 45 other European leaders attend a mega-summit today in a castle just 13 miles from Ukraine.

The second meeting of the European Political Community (EPC), including the 27 EU member states plus 20 other countries, is symbolic as it is held as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues.

President Zelensky is expected to attend, as are the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia despite fears of fresh conflict between both countries.

Maia Sandu, Moldova's president, who faced a Russian-backed coup in February, hailed the summit as "testament to a growing unity on the continent". She said: "The event is a resolute reaffirmation of our unwavering dedication to peace, a strong condemnation of Russia's invasion, continued solidarity with Ukraine, and a display of support to Moldova."

The EPC, while new and based on a proposal from President Macron that some see as undermining the EU, has quickly assumed a key role in building a pan-European alliance against Putin.

Sunak will join the summit — hosted at the Mimi Castle, a monument and vineyard close to the border of a conflict that has seen Russian missiles repeatedly cross Moldova's airspace before hitting Ukraine — and tell other leaders that the meeting is needed to counter "Putin's utter contempt of other countries' sovereignty", as well as other international threats.

The French leader, speaking on his way to Moldova, said that Ukraine needed to be given "tangible and credible security guarantees" by European powers and Nato allies. "We have to build something between the security provided to Israel and full-fledged membership [of Nato]," Macron said.

"We need to help Ukraine today with all means to carry out an effective counter-offensive. We have to intensify our efforts because what will happen in the next few months offers a chance even for a lasting peace."

Moldova has been locked down for the gathering of European leaders, with its airspace closed for 24 hours, special border checks, major security force deployments and road closures.

Moscow has warned Moldova that hosting the summit will "set up the country for confrontation with Russia".

"The increase in co-operation between Chisinau, Nato and the EU in the military-political sphere cannot but cause us concern," Mikhail Gazulin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, told the state news agency RIA-Novosti.

Brussels has announced sanctions against oligarchs linked to pro-Russian opposition parties accused of trying to destabilise Moldova. "Moldova is one of the countries most affected by the fall-out of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. There are serious, increased and continued attempts to destabilise the country." Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, said.

Moldova 'in a dangerous place at a dangerous time'

Bruno Waterfield

Moldova, a tiny post-Soviet country, is on the political map as it defies Russia and survives attempts by President Putin to overthrow its democratic government while swinging to the West.

Hosting today's summit of European leaders is arguably Moldova's biggest moment for a century, and certainly since it became independent as Soviet Russia fell apart in 1991.

"It is the biggest event since independence," Nicu Popescu, the Moldovan foreign minister, said. "Moldova is not alone. We are a country that is in a dangerous place at a dangerous time in the history of our European continent."

When Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine last year there were early fears that Moscow's troops would sweep through Odesa to take Moldova.

Then as the threat of direct invasion receded with Ukrainian resistance, Moldova's population of only three million has faced energy and economic crises, Moscow-backed coup attempts, political destabilisation and constant cyberattacks.

On top of all that, since a violent conflict in 1992 Moldova's Transnistria territory has been a breakaway separatist statelet backed by Moscow, occupied by Russian military forces, that was further destabilised by the invasion of Ukraine.

Moldova is on the front line and the key battlefield in the new geopolitics. There were concerns four years ago that the country, one of the most obscure backwaters of the post-Soviet landscape, was slipping into corrupt authoritarianism and rule by oligarchs with close ties to Russia.

Today Moldova is the centre of attention after rising to Putin's challenges under the leadership of President Sandu, the "iron lady". By invading Ukraine and threatening Moldova, Putin has miscalculated as, certainly in the opening months of the war, Moldovans mobilised to help their neighbours and popular sentiment has turned to Europe and away from Russia.

"Everybody chipped in, everybody mobilised, so we really earned this attention," Dumitru Alaiba, Moldova's economy minister, said.

Since the war in Ukraine, 720,000 refugees have passed through Moldova after being sheltered and looked after.

About 107,000 Ukrainian refugees remain, with 80 per cent hosted in Moldovan private homes. To put this in perspective, it is the equivalent of Britain helping 17 million refugees from mainland Europe at a time of war and hosting 2.6 million in private homes.

Kim's spy satellite launch sends South Koreans running for cover

South Korea
Richard Lloyd Parry

Panic spread across Seoul when an evacuation warning was set off after North Korea launched a satellite that crashed into the sea.

Loudspeakers and mobile phones broadcast the alert just after 6.30am. It was revoked about 20 minutes later when it became clear that as well as the launch having failed, the rocket was not a weapon but the vehicle for the launch of a spy satellite. South Koreans have experienced more than a hundred missile launches since the start of last year but alarms such as this are rare.

Oh Se-hoon, the mayor of Seoul, stood by the decision to issue the alert but apologised for the "confusion".

Lee Juyeon, 33, the mother of a nine-month-old child, said: "I was so panicked. The emergency phone lines were busy and the internet was slow. So without knowing what was really happening I was about to head down to a basement with my baby."

Japanese officials in the islands of Okinawa also told residents to take shelter, although the rocket was fired in the opposite direction from Japan.

North Korea had warned of its plans to launch a surveillance satellite in a 12-day period. State media was quick to admit that the satellite and rocket had failed — a notable move in a country where bad news is often suppressed.

"The carrier rocket Chollima-1 [the name means 'winged horse'] fell to the West Sea of Korea after losing thrust due to the abnormal starting of the second-stage engine after the separation of the first stage during the normal flight," the Korean Central News Agency reported. It said the failure was due to "the low reliability and stability of the new-type engine system and the unstable character of the fuel used".

The South Korean armed forces said that within an hour and a half they had salvaged parts of the crashed rocket from close to where it fell into the sea, 200km west of Eocheongdo island. They reported that they had retrieved a "cylindrical interstage component".

Yoon Suk-yeol, a spokesman for the South Korean president, said of the launch: "Whether it was a success or not, [it was] a serious provocation that threatens peace and security on the Korean peninsula."

Adam Hodge, the US national security council spokesman, called it "a brazen violation of UN security council resolutions".

Last month Kim Jong-un, North Korea's supreme leader, ordered the launch of a spy satellite to gather intelligence and to help it launch pre-emptive attacks on the US and South Korea.

LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS; NATHAN HOWARD; ALEX BRANDON/AP



Buzz words Isaac Brogan, 11, Joy-Den Wilson, 12, and Audrey Dougherty, 13, are among 231 competitors in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Maryland, United States

Informant dies after revealing corruption suspect's 'hideout'

Malaysia
Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

A man who recently revealed the whereabouts of the suspect in a multi-billion-dollar embezzlement scandal has died suddenly in Malaysia, the latest twist in one of the biggest financial scams in modern history.

Kee Kok Thiam, 56, who was also under investigation in the corruption case known as the 1MDB scandal, died this week of a "sudden massive stroke", according to his lawyers. He was cremated yesterday.

He died days after reports that he had told Malaysian investigators that the man at the centre of the case, the fugitive playboy known as Jho Low, was in hiding in the Chinese territory of Macau.

Valen, Oh & Partners, the law firm representing Kee and his family, said that he died on Monday. "We urge all parties not to entertain any speculation on this unfortunate event and allow the family the space to grieve on his passing," the statement said.

The scandal centres on the Malaysian state investment firm, 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), from which billions of dollars were embezzled before the scam was exposed in 2016. As the story unfolded it revealed massive corruption at the highest levels of the Malaysian government.

Najib Razak, 69, the former prime minister, is serving a 12-year prison sentence for abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering connected to the plundering of $10 million from the fund. The embezzlement was first reported in 2015 but it was not until 2018 that Najib was arrested after his general election defeat.

Two former senior employees of Goldman Sachs have also been convicted in the United States in connection with the case. One, Tim Leissner, has pleaded guilty to helping to embezzle the 1MDB funds and co-operated with prosecutors in return for a reduced sentence.

The missing link is Low — whose full name is Low Taek Jho — a friend of Najib and Leissner who has been charged in the US but who has been on the run since 2016.

According to US court documents, Low used the money from 1MDB to buy luxury properties and works of art and to fund *The Wolf of Wall Street*, a film starring the Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

DiCaprio later returned to Malaysia donations made by Low to his charitable foundation.

Kee was named as an aide to Low and a criminal suspect in his own right. According to reports in Malaysia, he was deported from Macau to Kuala Lumpur on May 3 for overstaying his visa and was questioned soon after his arrival by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission. He told them that Low was in Macau, along with others wanted in connection with the 1MDB scandal. He was then released without charge and without protection.

It has long been rumoured that Low is in China, apparently under the "protection" of the authorities, although this may be a situation closer to house arrest.

There has been speculation that the Chinese authorities may be holding on to him as a bargaining chip, to be handed over in return for concessions from the Malaysian government, such as investment deals or support for China's claims to islands in the South China Sea.

President sparks panic minutes into first speech

Nigeria
Richard Assheton Lagos

The new president of Nigeria triggered the first crisis of his tenure minutes into his inauguration speech when he set off panic buying of petrol by declaring an end to a longstanding fuel subsidy.

Bola Tinubu sent prices soaring and caused long queues when he said to cheers in Abuja, the capital: "No provision is there for fuel subsidy, so fuel subsidy is gone."

The president's media team said the declaration was "neither a new development nor an action of his new administration" because the government of Muhammadu Buhari, his predecessor, had budgeted for the subsidy for only the first half of this year, meaning it will stop at the end of this month.

However, Tinubu's words left passengers for buses that could no longer operate stranded. In Lagos, the country's biggest city, drivers jammed petrol stations that were selling at the regulated price of 185 naira (about 30p) a litre. There and in other parts of the country, including oil-producing regions, prices rose by as much as three times.

Adebisi Kolade, who had clocked up two hours in the queue in Lagos, said: "They have increased the price in most places and now I have to quit this long line to buy at the normal price."

Despite being Africa's largest oil producer, Nigeria has few refineries so spends about half its revenue importing petrol, and about another quarter — almost $10 billion last year — subsidising prices at pumps. Tinubu has pledged to invest in public services the savings from scrapping the subsidy.

A rich former governor of Lagos, Tinubu faces record national debt, inflation above 20 per cent, unemployment of a third, chronic power shortages, rampant oil theft and an onslaught of kidnappings and terrorist attacks. He won fewer than nine million votes in February's election in a country of 200 million people.

Tinubu spent 44 of the 91 days between being declared winner and being sworn in in Europe, much of it in Paris. Sources told The Times he was being treated for degenerative diseases, likely to be Parkinson's and kidney disease. Tinubu says he is 71 but there are suggestions he is older.

Discussions are said to have taken place about who is allowed by his bedside when he is having treatment. Many are predicting a power struggle between his wife and children on one side and his vice-president, Kashim Shettima, on the other, if he is unable to govern. Tinubu has insisted he is fit to lead, pointing out that President Biden is 80.

PM chided for linking Le Pen party to Nazis

The legacy of Marshal Pétain has fuelled the strain between President Macron and Élisabeth Borne, his prime minister, after she tied France's hard-right opposition to the wartime leader who collaborated with the Nazi occupiers (Charles Bremner writes).

Macron denied disowning Borne, 62, after he appeared to reprimand her during a cabinet meeting for saying that the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen was the modern heir to Pétain's antisemitic regime. The party's founder, Jean-Marie Le Pen, 94, Marine's father, is a Pétain sympathiser notorious for his antisemitic views.

The matter is central to Macron's strategy for handling Marine Le Pen, runner-up in the 2017 and 2022 presidential elections, as the nationalist leader continues to "normalise" the former National Front before her expected fourth run for the Élysée Palace in 2027.

He told Borne and the cabinet: "You will not be able to make millions of French people who voted for the far right believe that they are fascists. The fight against the far right no longer revolves around moral arguments."

He called on the government to fight Le Pen and the National Rally on its policies and not "words from the 1990s which no longer work".

Macron said later that he was not targeting Borne in particular, but the affair reflects widening differences between the president and the left-leaning technocrat he appointed prime minister in May last year following his re-election the previous month.

Macron has effectively abandoned the old doctrine in mainstream French politics that deemed the Le Pen movement to be a dangerous pariah that must be kept beyond the democratic pale. Borne, whose father was a Holocaust survivor who later committed suicide, told a Jewish radio station based in Paris that Le Pen had not detoxified the party and that it still had a "dangerous ideology".

Le Pen and her party demanded an apology from Borne, while the rest of the opposition criticised Macron for his approach. Olivier Faure, leader of the Socialist Party, tweeted that as the daughter of a Holocaust deportee, Borne had a right to remind people that the modern "far right is directly descended" from the Pétain era.

On the 80th anniversary in last July last year of the round-up of 13,000 Jewish and other people in Vel d'Hiv in Paris's Winter Velodrome before they were sent to concentration camps, Borne recalled that police followed Pétain's orders that "went even further than the Nazi occupiers demanded".

Le Pen hopes that her drive to erase the stain of her father's era will help her to win a majority in 2027. Polls put her ahead of other potential candidates.

GETTY IMAGES





Jean-Marie Le Pen is a Pétain sympathiser but his daughter, Marine, has tried to detoxify the party

Discovery washes away doubts about tale of 'German Atlantis'

Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

In the book of Genesis, God punishes the people of Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness by levelling the cities with fire and brimstone.

For German moralists, the legend of the lost city of Rungholt has served much the same cautionary purpose.

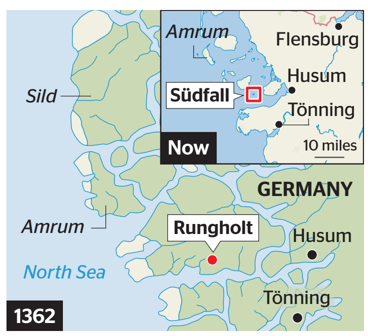
As revenge for its inhabitants' prodigious sins — some said drunkenness or unwisely flaunted wealth, others said arrogance and impiety — the island trading settlement was supposedly swallowed whole by the North Sea during a great storm in 1362, never to surface again.

For centuries it was hard to tell how much truth there was to these stories; some historians questioned whether Rungholt had even existed. Now, however, the remains of this "northern Atlantis" have been comprehensively charted for the first time in the muddy flats of the Wadden Sea, about 15 kilometres off the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany.

Archaeologists led by a group from Christian-Albrecht University in Kiel mapped the site with a geophysical survey and a series of core samples that revealed a two-kilometre chain of medieval mounds dotted around what is now a small island known as Südfall.

The discoveries, described in the journal Plos One, included the foundations of a large church, measuring 40 metres by 15 metres, as well as drainage channels and a harbour that appears to have been regulated by one of the largest systems of wooden tidal gates known from Europe in this period.

The breakthrough is a long-delayed victory for the late Andreas Busch, a local farmer and amateur historian who first found the location of Rungholt as the overlying silt began to erode in the early 1920s. It also represents a vindication of sorts for the 19th-century writer Theodor Storm, who mentioned the destruction of the town in an 1872 novella.



Storm's theory — that the islanders had brought their fate upon themselves by getting a pig drunk and forcing a priest to give it the last rites — is beyond verification by modern archaeology. But there is solid evidence for his notion that the people of Rungholt tried to defy the North Sea with large dykes. Beneath the tidal flats the researchers found a dyke about 35m thick, with artificial little hills known as terps, designed to keep buildings above water in case of a flood.

Rungholt appears to have been a fairly prosperous place. First settled by people from the Frisian mainland in the 8th century or so, the island was transformed into a fortress against the waves, with a hinterland of cultivated marshes criss-crossed by drainage ditches. Previous findings suggest that the traders brought pottery, metal jewellery and weaponry from as far afield as Flanders and even Spain.

But neither their ingenuity nor wealth was enough to shield them against the "great man-drowning" of 1362, when a storm surge consumed Rungholt along with 250,000 acres of low-lying land, claiming thousands of lives and shifting the coastline roughly 15 miles to the east.

'Spoilt child' of Cannes picks fight with Macron

France
Charles Bremner Paris

A protest by the winner of the Cannes film festival's top award has provoked criticism from President Macron and a clash in parliament over the merits of France's lavishly subsidised film industry. Justine Triet became the latest from the left-wing "luvvies" of *le cinéma français* to start a row from the festival stage when she used her Palme d'Or acceptance speech to denounce Macron's "neo-liberal" government for "destroying the French cultural exception" by demanding that films make profits. She also deplored Macron's increase in the retirement age to 64.



Justine Triet criticised the call for profitable films

Triet, 44, acknowledged that her film, *Anatomy of a Fall*, would not have been made without the €1 billion per year funding that underpins Europe's biggest film industry in the name of promoting French culture. She worried, she said, for the next generation of *auteurs*.

David Lisnard, the conservative mayor of Cannes, called Triet's outburst "the speech of a spoiled child".

Her outburst, applauded at Saturday night's ceremony, was denounced by Rima Abdul Malak, the culture minister, who said she was flabbergasted by its injustice. Roland Lescure, the industry minister, said Triet's film should be retitled "anatomy of ingratitude from a profession we help so much". Breaking with tradition, Macron did not congratulate Triet and at a cabinet meeting said cinema was so subsidised that even stars' hotel suites at Cannes were publicly funded. "For once when we win something it would be nice to avoid damaging the image of France abroad," he said, according to a cabinet leak.

Germany at odds over gender ID bill

Oliver Moody

Germany's most senior official responsible for LGBT matters has criticised the way plans for gender self-identification are being introduced, saying that they do not do enough to open single-sex spaces to trans people.

The ruling coalition under Olaf Scholz has promised to allow anyone over the age of 14 to change their registered gender simply by filling in a form. Under-14s will also be able to do so, but only with permission from their parents.

At present, under the 43-year-old "transsexual law", Germans who wish to formally alter their gender must be approved by two psychiatrists and apply to a court. This can take years. There is broad consensus that these requirements are unfair and out of date.

Although trans rights are nothing like as divisive in Germany as in the UK, surveys have suggested that roughly half the population have concerns. A poll last summer found that 48 per cent of voters were against allowing 14 to 17-year-olds to change gender without parental consent, and 39 per cent were in favour.

Meanwhile, LGBT rights groups have seized on a clause in the bill that confirms the right of institutions to decide whether they wish to admit trans people. Marco Buschmann, the justice minister, said it had been inserted because some "biological" women had legitimate concerns about privacy and safety.

However, Sven Lehmann, the "queer commissioner" from the Green Party, who is the public face of the government's LGBT policies, said the clause was a "fatal signal" to trans people.

Pence set to join race for White House

Alistair Dawber Washington

Mike Pence is expected to join an increasingly crowded field hoping to win the Republican presidential nomination.

The former vice-president, 63, will make his announcement on June 7 in a video message. He will then speak at a rally in Des Moines, the state capital of Iowa, which will be the first to choose its Republican presidential nominee early next year.

Pence served as Donald Trump's vice-president between 2017-2021. Before that, he was governor of Indiana. He is likely to position himself as a social conservative in an appeal to the religious right of the party.

A poll for Morning Consult taken this week shows Pence with 5 per cent support among Republican primary voters. He is behind Trump on 56 per cent and Ron DeSantis, 44, the Florida governor, on 22 per cent.

Chris Christie, another Republican big-hitter, is expected to declare his candidacy at an event in New Hampshire next week.

JESSICA BLACKLOW/JAM PRESS



Synchronised swimming A dozen dolphins seemed to put on a show in near-perfect formation as they swam close to the shoreline at Manly beach in Sydney, Australia

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Is the film worth seeing? No, all its stars are woke

United States

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

A conservative film critic has started a review website designed to inform viewers whether a movie is "worth it or woke", after becoming fed up with Hollywood's embrace of progressive values.

Studios have committed themselves to greater inclusion in recent years, with beloved franchises remade with racial and gender diversity in mind.

There has been a backlash, however, with the recent Netflix production *Queen Cleopatra* being challenged by the authorities in Egypt for having a black actress, Adele James, play the enigmatic ruler.

Disney's live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* attracted controversy for casting Halle Bailey, a black American actress, in the role of Ariel.

In response to the shift towards diversity, James Carrick, who describes himself as a "passionate film enthusiast with [a] degree in theatre and philosophy", has created the website Worth It or Woke? The service promises "real movie and show reviews for real people who live in the real world". It states: "Don't rely on the woke mob to help you find what to watch."

Carrick does not recommend *The Little Mermaid.* His review reads: "From the creative vacuum that is modern Disney, the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* sacrifices all of the charm and fun of the original in the name of personal politics and photo-realistic fish."

Carrick told Rolling Stone that his website was experiencing "rapid growth" and that conservative filmgoers were poorly served by review aggregators such as Rotten Tomatoes. "Mirroring the 'wokeism' that increasingly permeates the work of film-makers, many critics artificially reward activism over quality," he said.

"Consider that films will no longer be eligible for Academy Awards if they fail to meet race, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation quotas."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has introduced rules requiring greater diversity in front of and behind the camera in order to be eligible for best picture.

Richard Dreyfuss, the Oscar-winning actor, has criticised the guidelines and said the requirements "make me vomit".

Carrick rates each film on whether its "woke quotient (woketient) is distractingly high, tolerable, or not there at all". Each movie receives a rating of "woke", "woke-ish" or "non-woke".

He gave *Big George Foreman,* a biopic about the former heavyweight boxing champion, a "non-woke" score and a warm review due to its favourable depiction of religion.

But Disney's latest reimagining of Peter Pan was not so fortunate. *Peter Pan & Wendy,* which starred the black actress Yara Shahidi as Tinker Bell and introduced girls as part of the Lost Boys, was rated "woke" by Carrick's website. "The diversity casting is ridiculous and obvious," he wrote. "Every lost boy who is 'diverse' is also distractingly bad, and that goes for Peter Pan."

'Miracle' of nun preserved in coffin

Keiran Southern

Thousands of worshippers have flocked to a monastery in rural Missouri to view the body of a nun who has shown few signs of decomposition since dying, aged 95, in 2019.

Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster was exhumed in April by nuns preparing for the addition of a new shrine. The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles had been told to expect only bones since Lancaster had been buried in a wooden coffin without being embalmed following her death in May 2019.

Instead they found an intact body and "a perfectly preserved religious habit" at the monastery in Gower, a small town about 40 miles north of Kansas City.



The news about Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster spread "like wildfire"

The nuns said they did not intend to publicise the discovery but a private email leaked and "the news began to spread like wildfire".

Bodies that do not decompose are known as "incorrupt" in Catholicism. It is a sign of holiness and can be used as a justification for sainthood.

Police have been managing the crowds who have travelled from around the US, Mexico and Canada to view and touch Lancaster's body.

"It was amazing," said Samuel Dawson, a Catholic who visited from Kansas City with his son. "It was very peaceful. Just very reverent."

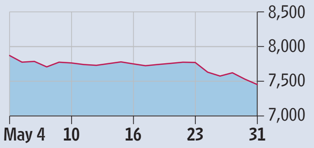
The monastery said that Lancaster's body would be placed in a glass shrine in its church on Monday.

Some experts have said that a lack of decomposition over four years is not as rare as many believe.

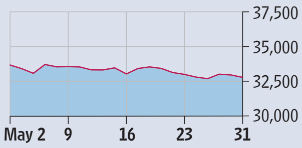
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,446.14 (-75.93) ▼

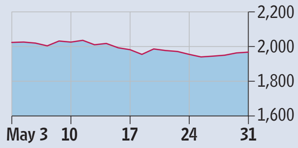


Dow Jones
32,908.27 (-134.51) ▼

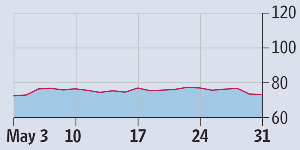


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1966.01 (+3.68) ▲

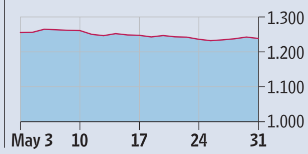


Brent crude (6pm)
$73.28 (-0.41) ▼

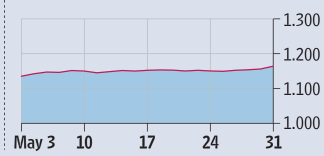


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2393 (-0.0009) ▼



£/€
€1.1634 (+0.0067) ▲



CBI promises changes at top to persuade members it's worth saving

James Hurley

The CBI is to overhaul its board and will choose a new president as it tries to convince members to vote for the organisation to stay in business.

The lobby group issued a prospectus to members yesterday before a meeting next Tuesday that will determine whether it goes ahead with planned reforms or is wound down.

It is understood that a consultation over job losses is due to begin with CBI staff this week, with redundancies expected even if members vote for the group to continue. It has been taking insolvency advice to prepare for a possible closure.

The business lobby group's existential crisis comes after it sacked Tony Danker, its director-general, and other members of staff over alleged wrongdoing. More than a dozen women who worked for the organisation have alleged that they were sexually harassed by colleagues and two say they were raped. There is no suggestion that the rape allegations relate to Danker.

The CBI said it planned to change its board to ensure "fresh talent and diverse perspectives". Four non-executives will depart and Brian McBride, its president, will begin a search for his successor ahead of schedule.

The group also said it would set up a "people and culture" committee to improve the quality of the organisation's management as part of "wide-ranging changes to our people processes, governance structures [and] culture".

The CBI said it had consulted with more than 1,000 members to inform the proposals. It added that firms were "clear they still want and need a collective, national voice of business".

It also set out the findings of a review by Principia Advisory, a consulting firm, which criticised the quality of its management but did not find allegations that the CBI had a "toxic" or "misogynistic" culture were "accurate".

Rain Newton-Smith, the CBI director-general, said: "Ahead of the [meeting], our prospectus brings together the actions we're taking. We are making radical and rapid changes to upgrade our governance structures and processes. We shall learn the lessons and emerge from this a stronger organisation."

Failure is still an option, page 38

Monzo faces £100m loss on bad loans

Digital bank's push into 'buy now, pay later' takes toll

Ben Martin Banking Editor

Monzo has reported a sharp jump in its provisions for potential loan losses after a rapid increase in lending that has involved a push into the "buy now, pay later" industry.

The fast-growing digital bank has set aside £101.2 million to cover possible bad loans in the year to the end of February, up from only £14 million in 2022, annual results for the bank show.

Monzo also has revealed that the City regulator has widened the scope of its investigation into possible anti-money laundering breaches at the group.

The bank said the sharp increase in loan loss provisions reflected "the growth in our borrowing portfolio", with lending by the privately owned business climbing to £759.7 million from £258.8 million a year earlier. This expansion has been driven in part by Flex, its buy now, pay later product, which was unveiled in September 2021. Gross lending under Flex, which allows customers to spread out the cost of purchases, climbed to £169.3 million from £27 million in 2022.

Overall, higher provisions for "expected credit losses", or ECLs, at Monzo helped to drive the bank to a £116.3 million loss for the year, although this was a slight improvement on its £119 million loss a year earlier.

It is on course to swing into the black, however. TS Anil, Monzo's chief executive, said the bank had turned profitable in March and was expected to unveil its maiden annual profit in the current financial year. This would mark a significant milestone for the branchless lender, which was founded in 2015 and now has 7.4 million customers and £6 billion of deposits.

Like other lenders, it is benefiting from rapid interest rate rises since the end of 2021, which are boosting revenues. Its net interest income surged to £164.2 million last year from £34.1 million in 2022. Interest income from customers borrowing from the bank climbed by 190 per cent to £89.7 million.

The jump in Monzo's loan book comes against a tough economic backdrop, with soaring inflation and higher interest rates putting pressure on household finances. This has prompted banks to brace for a rise in bad loans.

However, despite an industry-wide increase in provisions, most big lenders have reported that borrowers are holding up well amid the cost of living crisis. This sentiment was echoed by Anil, 51, who said Monzo was seeing "nothing unusual" in its loan portfolio. "When you have a book that's growing as fast as our's [in recent] years, the ECLs build up alongside that," he said.

It emerged two years ago that the Financial Conduct Authority was investigating potential breaches by Monzo of anti-money laundering and financial crime rules between October 1, 2018, and April 30, 2021. The period under the scrutiny has been extended to June 30 last year, Monzo disclosed. It is not unusual for the period under review to change while an inquiry is ongoing. Anil did not comment on the investigation.

TINGSHU WANG/REUTERS



Back-seat driver Elon Musk, the Tesla chief executive, was given the red carpet treatment on the second day of his surprise visit to China, where the 51-year-old billionaire met officials from the country's commerce and industry ministries. Page 38

Rate rise worries weigh on FTSE 100

Tom Howard

London's biggest stocks suffered their worst month since last summer in May, amid worries that central bankers will have to keep increasing interest rates if they want to bring down stubbornly high inflation.

The FTSE 100 dropped by 5.4 per cent last month, the index's biggest monthly fall since June and similar to the decline in October, when stocks suffered in the aftermath of the chaotic mini-budget. The Footsie, home to some of the nation's biggest businesses, has fallen in five of its past six sessions and was down again yesterday, by 75.93 points, or 1 per cent, at 7,446.14, its lowest level since the end of March.

Ocado, the online grocer, lost more than a quarter of its stock market value last month; Vodafone, the telecoms group, declined by 20 per cent; and shares in Burberry, the luxury fashion house, fell by 17 per cent.

Investors have been put off putting their money in the stock market largely because of interest rate expectations. Persistent inflation has prompted a rethink of how much further central banks will have to lift rates in their quest to slow price rises.

Expectations are moving rapidly. Less than two weeks ago, the consensus was that interest rates in Britain would peak at 4.75 per cent, but that has now risen to 5.5 per cent. Because of that, yields on government bonds have climbed sharply, too. The yield on a ten-year gilt is now not far shy of where it was in the aftermath of the controversial mini-budget.

In general, the stock market does not like it when rates and yields move higher. It makes bonds more attractive relative to equities and increases companies' borrowing costs, crimping their profit margins. It also affects discount rates, which analysts use to put a value on what they think a company's future cashflow will be worth.

It is not only interest rates that have knocked the market. Fears of a slowdown in China, the world's second largest economy, have weighed on sentiment, as has the recent debt ceiling battle in the United States. On top of that, Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, is now in recession.

Market report, page 47

Need to know

1 The company planning to build Britain's largest solar farm is facing questions about alleged links to forced labour in China and claims that it offered inducements to an MP to back the scheme. Canadian Solar is applying for planning permission to build a 2,100-acre solar plant in Rutland, which would be eight times bigger than the UK's largest solar plant and would provide power to more than 92,000 homes. **Page 9**

2 Monzo has reported a big jump in its provisions for potential loan losses after a rapid increase in lending that has involved a push into the "buy now, pay later" industry. The digital bank has set aside £101.2 million to cover possible bad loans in the year to the end of February, up from £14 million in 2022. **Page 35**

3 The CBI is to overhaul its board and will choose a new president as it tries to convince members to vote for the organisation to stay in business. The troubled business lobby group issued a prospectus to members before a meeting next Tuesday that will determine whether it goes ahead with planned reforms or is wound down. **Pages 35, 38**

4 London's biggest stocks suffered their worst month since last autumn amid worries that central bankers will have to keep increasing interest rates if they want to bring down stubbornly high inflation. The FTSE 100 share index dropped by 5.4 per cent last month. **Page 35, Market report, page 47**

5 An eleventh-hour offer for Purplebricks has been withdrawn, leaving Sir Charles Dunstone, the founder of Carphone Warehouse and TalkTalk, in pole position to buy the estate agency.

6 JP Morgan has become involved in a fresh clash with Jes Staley over the bank's past dealings with Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted paedophile who died in prison in New York. **Page 38**

7 WE Soda, the world's largest producer of natural soda ash — better known in Britain as sodium carbonate, or washing soda — is set to float on the London Stock Exchange in a move that in due course would earn it a place in the FTSE 100. **Page 40**

8 Ithaca Energy, one of Britain's biggest North Sea oil and gas producers, wants to push ahead with significant projects even as politicians consider ending further drilling in the basin. **Page 41**

9 The owner of Ladbrokes and Coral has said it faces a "substantial financial penalty" from British authorities looking into historic corporate misconduct at its former Turkish online gaming business. Entain conceded that a fine was "likely". **Page 42**

10 WH Smith has raised its annual profit outlook as it bets on a travel boom this summer. The retailer's travel business reported a 31 per cent increase in sales in the 13 weeks to May 27, up 18 per cent on a like-for-like basis. **Page 43**

From farm to the top table of tech entrepreneurs

Tessa Clarke knows a lot about food, not least from having grown up on a 300-acre farm in North Yorkshire (Hannah Prevett writes). The co-founder and chief executive of Olio, the food-sharing app, even delivered a calf when she was 11.

It was an unconventional upbringing for a leading light of London's technology scene. "Sometimes I do feel like a bit of an impostor, because while other tech entrepreneurs were thinking about bits and bytes and coding when they were ten, I was hanging out with cows and chickens," Clarke, 47, said.

Her lack of early keyboard-bashing hasn't held her back. Since co-founding Olio in 2015 with Saasha Celestial-One, 46, the pair have raised more than £40 million in investment from venture capital firms including Accel and Octopus Ventures and have won Tesco, Iceland and Amazon Fresh as clients.

Olio is an app that connects neighbours so that surplus food from households and supermarkets can be shared, not binned. The lossmaking company does not disclose its turnover, but says seven million users have joined the app, which has given away 100 million portions of food and nine million household items.

Last night Clarke became the 51st winner of the Bold Woman Award run by Veuve Clicquot, the longest-running international prize recognising women in business. A second award, the Bold Future, went to Karen Scofield Seal, 59, co-founder and chief executive of Oceanium, which makes products from seaweed. It has raised £8 million in grants and funding and counts WWF, the conservation charity, as an investor.

Clarke and Scofield Seal join a roll of



Tessa Clarke, right, and Karen Scofield Seal have joined an illustrious list of winners of Veuve Clicquot awards for women in business

Pru's finance chief resigns after inquiry into hiring bid

Ben Martin Banking Editor

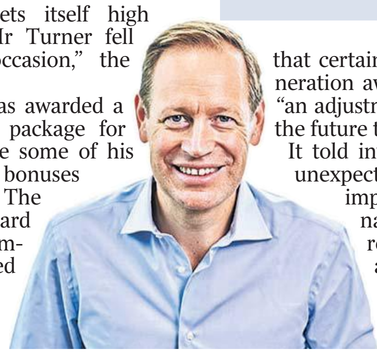
The finance chief of Prudential has stepped down in the wake of an investigation into his conduct after he tried to make an inappropriate hire.

James Turner, 54, had resigned from the FTSE 100 insurer after his behaviour "fell short" of the group's expectations, the Pru said, adding that the Hong Kong-based executive had left "in light of an investigation into a code of conduct issue relating to a recent recruitment situation".

It is understood that a problem was identified by the Asia-focused insurer during a hiring process involving Turner, who had been with the Pru since 2010 and who became its finance chief in April last year. An external law firm was appointed to investigate and the individual was not recruited by the business, which is valued at £29 billion on the stock market.

"The group sets itself high standards and Mr Turner fell short on this occasion," the company said.

Turner, who was awarded a £3.97 million pay package for last year, will lose some of his long-term bonuses because of his exit. The Pru said its board remuneration committee "has decided that certain past variable remuneration awards will lapse" and "an adjustment may be made in the future to other awards".



James Turner joined in 2010

It told investors that Turner's unexpected departure had "no implications for the financial performance, reporting or operations of the business".

Even so, his resignation adds to significant change at the top of the Pru over the past year and shares in the company fell by 6.1 per cent, or 69p, to close at £10.56 in London.

Mike Wells, who ran the insurer for seven years, retired from the business in March 2022 and was replaced on an interim basis by Mark FitzPatrick, who had been the group's finance chief and chief operating officer.

It was only in late February that Anil Wadhwani, 54, who previously was at Manulife, the Canadian insurer, took up his post as the Pru's new permanent boss. Turner had been the insurer's chief risk and compliance officer and stepped up to replace FitzPatrick, who has now left the board after Wadhwani's arrival. These management changes have tilted the company even further away from Britain.

Although the Pru was founded in London in 1848, its operations are now focused on Asia and Africa. Wells had been based in London, but Wadhwani runs the business from Hong Kong, where the rest of its top team are.

Investors are still waiting for Wadhwani to set out his strategy for the company, which he is due to detail at the end of August, when the insurer reports its half-year results.

Turner had risen through the ranks at the Pru since joining the business more than 12 years ago as its director of group-wide internal audit. He was previously the deputy head of compliance at Barclays and earlier worked at UBS and Coopers & Lybrand, which became part of PwC. He is a vice-chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

He is being replaced as chief financial officer by Ben Bulmer, 48, who has been with the Pru since 1997, most recently as the finance chief of its insurance and asset management business. Turner will remain on hand to the company "for a period of four months to support a smooth transition". Turner did not return a request for comment made through LinkedIn, the social network.

Behind the story

The exit of James Turner from Prudential has brought the total number of chief financial officer changes on the FTSE 100 to 26 this year (Helen Cahill writes).

The executives have been departing Britain's biggest quoted businesses at a rate far above the average in recent decades, according to analysis by AJ Bell, the investment firm.

There have been an average of 15 departures per year since 2000 in the FTSE 100 and this year's tally is beaten only by the number of exits in the first year of the pandemic.

HSBC, J Sainsbury and WPP were some of the most high-profile companies to bring in new finance chiefs this year, with the appointments of Georges Elhedery, Bláthnaid Bergin and Joanne Wilson, respectively.

Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, said: "A breach of conduct rules is an unusual reason for someone to leave such a position. Shareholder pressure on the board after poor operational or share price retirement, getting or missing out on the job of chief executive, the promotion of a predecessor to the top job, the appointment of an interim chief financial officer after a sudden change or the desire for a fresh challenge are all much more common."

VEUVE CLICQUOT



honour that includes Dame Sarah Gilbert, 61, the professor who co-developed the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, and Liv Garfield, 47, chief executive of Severn Trent.

The judges praised Clarke's "elegantly simple solution" to the "appalling issue" of food waste. They also highlighted her work connecting the community.

There had been upsides from her childhood, Clarke said, including "directly transferable skills" from farming to entrepreneurship. "On a farm, you are having to solve problems multiple times a day because you can't control anything. You can't control the animals. You can't control the weather. You can't control the price at which you sell your output. So unpredictability is guaranteed and you have to be really agile in terms of your thinking.

"It's the same as an entrepreneur — curveballs are being sent your way and you've got to respond quickly without stressing.

"You've got to be fairly unflappable."

After studying social and political sciences at Cambridge University, Clarke worked at Boston Consulting Group for three years before holding senior management roles at Emap, the publishing and exhibitions group, Wonga, the payday loan provider, and Dyson, the home appliances maker.

The biggest challenge she and Celestial-One have faced has been access to growth capital. She said that trying to raise money as a female founder had been "soul-destroying" and "truly traumatising".

"Then I have to watch yet another guy get given yet more hundreds of millions to get people's groceries delivered in less than ten minutes, solving the ultimate first world problem that isn't even a problem.

"Saasha and I were very proactive in that we recognised the implicit and explicit biases that existed against us, so we made sure, for example, to make it very clear that we had no plans to have any further children. We didn't wait for questions to be asked."

Lecram pulls out of Purplebricks rescue

Tom Howard

An eleventh-hour offer for Purplebricks has been withdrawn, leaving Sir Charles Dunstone, the founder of Carphone Warehouse and TalkTalk, in pole position to buy the estate agency.

It emerged last week that Lecram Holdings, the vehicle of Adam Smith, the property investor, and one of the largest investors in Purplebricks, was trying to hijack Dunstone's deal.

Lecram had gone to the Purplebricks board to tell them it was considering an offer that would value the business at about £1.53 million. However, barely five days after going public with its proposal, Lecram has pulled out of the race.

A spokesman for Lecram said it had rescinded its offer when Purplebricks' financial condition "was found to be significantly worse than expected".

It means that Strike, a rival online estate agent backed by Dunstone's Freston Ventures investment vehicle, is the only bidder left.

Axel Springer, the German publishing house and Purplebricks' largest shareholder, had been tipped to make an offer but never did so.

For £1, Strike has agreed to take on the vast majority of Purplebricks' assets and all its liabilities. That offer has been recommended by the estate agency's board, partly because it can go through this Friday if the majority of shareholders vote in favour of it.

Time is of the essence for Purplebricks, which has been losing £850,000 a week in recent months. At the end of April, the company had £9.1 million of cash on hand.

Strike has promised to return whatever cash is left — up to £5.5 million — to shareholders, although they would be unlikely to see anything before the end of this year while the winding-down process is carried out.

With the prospect of a bidding war now removed, Purplebricks' shares fell by a more than quarter yesterday to ½p — the price Lecram was thinking of offering for them. The agency, which at one point in 2017 boasted a stock market value of almost £1.5 billion, is now worth less than £2 million.

Purplebricks was launched ten years ago by Michael and Kenny Bruce, two brothers, and quickly drew in sellers thanks to its cheap fixed-rate fees. However, it missed out on the pandemic housebuying boom and recently suffered a series of boardroom missteps and management upheaval.

Helena Marston, chief executive, will resign if the Strike deal goes through. The rest of the board and many of Purplebricks' 750-strong workforce will go "as part of a wider cost reduction".

City grandees back beleagured Allan

Helen Cahill

The former president of the CBI has been supported by 11 City figures after allegations were made about his behaviour towards women.

The individuals have signed a letter stating that John Allan has been "publicly traduced" by allegations that he touched women inappropriately at events run by Tesco and the CBI.

Allan, 74, has stepped down as chairman of Tesco and of Barratt Developments to avoid the claims becoming "disruptive" to both companies. He has apologised for telling a woman her dress "really suits your figure" at a CBI conference and has denied three further allegations made against him. It has been alleged that he touched the bottom of a senior Tesco employee at the retailer's annual general meeting in June last year and did the same thing to a colleague at a CBI dinner in May 2019, according to The Guardian.

Allan was president of the CBI between 2018 and 2020 and was vice-president until October 2021. The lobby group has been trying to reinvent itself after it was rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct and rape by staff.

Allan said recently that he had received more than 100 messages of support after the claims against him.

Signatories include Pippa Wicks, who recently stepped down as head of John Lewis department stores, and Sue Farr, a non-executive director at British American Tobacco and THG. Sir Ron Kalifa, chairman of Network International, and Seb James, chief executive of Boots UK, also support a statement that the "allegations . . . do not reflect the character of the man we know".

The letter says: "According to the media, John complimented a woman on her dress, then immediately apologised. This is true. Three further claims are anonymous, unsubstantiated and vehemently denied.

"None of the organisations related to these three further claims which John represented at the time have received complaints against him, formal or informal. Yet, despite this lack of evidence, John has been widely, publicly traduced."

London needs a hit from soda stream



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Patrick Hosking*

City types over the past few weeks have been engaging with a little-known white powder from Turkey with miraculously cheering powers. It is even being billed as capable of putting a smile back on the faces of the gloomsters who worry that London is dying as a jurisdiction for company flotations.

Soda ash, the raw material used in the production of everything from glass to dishwasher tablets, is the substance, WE Soda the company. If all goes well in the next few weeks, the controlling Ciner family will sell stock worth at least £600 million in a secondary offering and WE Soda will become a prime candidate to enter the FTSE 100 with a market value of £6 billion or so (report, page 40).

So what if the whizzy chip design kings Arm Holdings choose Wall Street over London? WE Soda, say its advisers, is evidence that London can still be an enticing destination for international billionaires. The company is set to be the biggest newly floated debutant on the share market since Glencore in 2011.

The anglophile Ciners chose London because that is where some of them live, the timezone is convenient and London investors understand the mining industry and — don't tell the growth stock puritans — love a fat dividend. Also it wanted to be a big fish in a middle-sized pond rather than a tiddler in a big one.

Actually, the investment case is a bit more exciting than it sounds. Most soda ash is manufactured synthetically, which is both highly polluting and energy-intensive. WE Soda uses more natural techniques and its plants in Turkey sit on top of one of only three significant deposits of the raw source material, trona, in the world.

The price of soda ash has doubled in the past two years, throwing off colossal amounts of cash, but WE Soda doesn't want to be seen merely as a yield play and has ambitious plans to invest $5 billion in additional capacity over the next few years.

Prospective investors will have plenty to give them pause, however. Soda ash is a highly commoditised product, its price dependent on the whims of global supply and demand. The firm is also very young, with its first plant opening only in 2009.

Then there are the governance aspects. After the float it will still be dominated by the Ciner family, who will own 85 per cent to 90 per cent of the stock. The initial public offering is possible only because of the recent watering down of free-float requirements. The chairwoman is Dider Ciner, wife of founder Turgay. Most of the independent non-execs came on board in February. The Ciners are big media owners in an increasingly authoritarian Turkey, which adds a political dimension to the investment case.

London doesn't just need more floats, it needs successful floats — ones that don't inflict large losses on their new shareholders. The latest vintage from 2021 has turned out to be a terrible crop that has done absolutely nothing to burnish the capital's credentials with investors. A lot is riding on WE Soda.

CBI on a knife-edge

The CBI's plea for clemency and its promise to do better in future was a mixed bag and it is hard to read how it will play with its members. Expressions of contrition, fine abstract words and new committees rarely convince anyone.

It remains a weirdly unaccountable organisation and is still unwilling to put its cards on the table. Even as the body trumpeted a new era of transparency, it refused to say how many of the 190,000 companies it claims it speaks for would actually have a vote on its survival next week.

Its choice of a branding consultancy to advise on future steps risks making it look like an organisation more interested in glossing over its image than stamping out the cultural failings that may have contributed to those allegations of sexual harassment and rape.

Changing the "cultural glue", as the CBI calls it, means changing the tone from the top and instilling a deep curiosity in the boardroom about what is really going on on the shop floor.

That's easier said than done.

What is not much in doubt, however, is that big business still needs and wants a lobby group to speak for it with one voice, especially with a general election looming. No one wants to have to reinvent and build a new CBI from scratch.

Many employers will be inclined to hold their noses and give the CBI the benefit of the doubt and a stay of execution. But the president, Brian McBride, really could do with a few high-profile women business leaders to rally round publicly — and before the vote.

Lack of prudence

The firing (let's not pretend otherwise) of the chief financial officer at Prudential is unusual. It is very rare for such a blue-chip company to explicitly accuse a senior figure of falling short of conduct standards in this way. Normally, a straying executive is quietly pushed out of the door with no need to trouble the wider world with all the sordid details.

What James Turner actually did remains a mystery, beyond the fact that it pertained to "a recent recruitment situation". Outsiders probably will think the worst, though this may be unfair. It's especially awkward for an executive who has spent his entire career in internal audit, compliance and risk — areas where getting caught rule-breaking is rightly punished most severely.

It is also a terrible career blow for Turner personally. Chief financial officer of a FTSE 20 business is normally a natural stepping stone to chief executive of something large, prestigious and very highly rewarded.

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Failure is still an option for CBI

New board, new chair, new culture — but some members fear the lobby group is doomed, writes **James Hurley**

Governance reforms at the CBI will ensure "greater transparency and accountability", Britain's most prominent business lobby group has claimed. The new era of transparency does not extend to disclosing how many members hold the fate of the organisation in their hands, however.

So-called "direct" members will vote before and at an extraordinary general meeting due to be held next Tuesday. Under discussion will be whether the CBI deserves a future in the wake of a sexual misconduct scandal. They will be asked: "Do the changes we have made — and the commitments we have set out — to reform our governance, culture and purpose give you the confidence you need to support the CBI?"

If the majority vote "no", the CBI will be wound down, leaving a hole where an organisation that claims to speak for 190,000 businesses throughout the UK used to be.

In any case, redundancies are expected and the group's directors have been taking insolvency advice should its members decide the organisation be shut down. It is understood that a consultation over job losses is due to begin with CBI staff this week.

How many members hold sway over the lobby group's future is a mystery: many of the 190,000 are members of business organisations affiliated with the CBI rather than direct members of the group, and therefore will not have a vote.

Moreover, whether its "programme of change", which includes an overhaul of its board and a new president, will be enough to convince direct members remains to be seen. The mood in the run-up to the release of its "prospectus", in which the CBI outlined the reforms it hopes will convince members to back it, suggests it faces an anxious few days.

The business lobby group's existential crisis comes after it dismissed Tony Danker, its director-general, and other members of staff over alleged wrongdoing. More than a dozen women who worked for the organisation have alleged to The Guardian newspaper that they were sexually harassed by colleagues. Two say they were raped. There is no suggestion that the rape allegations relate to Danker, who has claimed he has been made a "fall guy" for the group's crisis.

Both the government and the Labour Party have said they will not interact with the organisation while a police investigation into alleged rapes is under way.

The CBI says the number of direct members is commercially sensitive — perhaps increasingly so since nearly three in ten of those it had before the crisis began have either left or suspended their involvement. Aviva, NatWest and the John Lewis Partnership are among those who have departed, while others including Tesco and Sainsbury's have paused engagement.

Yesterday, the CBI said Brian McBride, 67, its president, would step down earlier than planned and would begin the search for a successor, with the handover to take place no earlier than January. Its board will be overhauled, "ensuring fresh talent and diverse perspectives".

Lord Bilimoria, the Cobra beer tycoon, Dame Vivian Hunt, a former McKinsey executive, and Clare Barclay, chief executive of Microsoft UK, will leave the board. Anna Marks, a senior audit partner at Deloitte, recently stepped down. Two other non-executives, Jill Ader and Mark Logan, "will stay on for continuity", the CBI said. Barclay will remain with the organisation until her successor is found.

A new "people and culture" committee would be created, the CBI said, to improve the quality of the organisation's management, as would an external "culture advisory committee".

The CBI said it had consulted with more than a thousand members over recent weeks to discuss the proposals. It added that companies were "clear they still want and need a collective, national voice of business with a general election looming in 2024".

It also set out the findings of a review by Principia Advisory, a consulting firm, which criticised the quality of management at the CBI and said it had "under-prioritised people management skills" as it focused on external lobbying activities.

"Many staff do not feel confident speaking up when they experience or observe misconduct," Principia said, adding that there was a "lack of clarity around processes [and] concerns around challenging people in positions of authority". However, it did not find that allegations the CBI had a "toxic" or "misogynistic" culture were "accurate or useful descriptions".

The CBI's board previously had asked Fox Williams, a law firm, to investigate its internal culture. The business group said it had completed 26 of the firm's recommendations and that the remainder were "in progress".

In his foreword to the prospectus, McBride wrote: "We are all chastened by the events of the past 12 weeks. We share a deep sense of responsibility to put things right."

Ann Francke, chief executive of the Chartered Management Institute, said the CBI had set out "important steps to address critical failings in its leadership and company culture", but added: "The CBI needs to avoid any risk of backtracking on why change is necessary. I question if a debate on whether or not the culture was toxic is necessary, or helpful. There were a dozen serious allegations of sexual harassment."

Another senior business leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that they were underwhelmed: "No new name, no new values, a minor board refresh of people that might be due to leave anyway and a vague deal with the president. I was feeling they had a good chance. Now I think they have a chance of it all failing."

Rain Newton-Smith, the CBI's new director-general, said: "We hope our members will see the serious change we are delivering."





A CBI dinner from 2010. Clockwise from centre: Tony Danker, Vivian Hunt, Rain Newton-Smith and Clare Barclay

Staley makes fresh claims over Epstein

Ben Martin Banking Editor

JP Morgan has become involved in a fresh clash with Jes Staley over the bank's past dealings with Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted paedophile who died in prison.

The Wall Street lender faces two lawsuits over its ties with Epstein. In turn, the bank is suing Staley — a former top executive at JP Morgan who later ran Barclays — seeking to make him liable for any losses it incurs from the civil claims it faces.

The legal actions have also embroiled Jamie Dimon, 67, the JP Morgan boss and one of the most powerful financiers in the world. Last week he was deposed for the lawsuits against the bank.

The Epstein scandal ultimately cost Staley, 66, his job as Barclays' chief executive. In 2021, he stepped down to contest the findings of a regulatory investigation into his links with Epstein.

The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that Staley had claimed in legal documents reviewed by the newspaper that he had communicated several times with Dimon about whether JP Morgan should keep Epstein as a client.

A JP Morgan spokeswoman rejected the claim. "We believe this is false," she said. "There is no evidence that any such communications ever occurred — nothing in the voluminous number of documents reviewed and nothing in the nearly dozen depositions taken, including that of our own CEO."

Dimon is in Shanghai for a conference hosted by JP Morgan. It is the financier's first visit to the Chinese mainland for four years. He said in Bloomberg TV interview that there should be "real engagement" between the United States and China on trade and security and warned: "If you have more uncertainty, somewhat caused by the Chinese government . . . it's going to not just change foreign direct investment. It's going to change the people here, their own confidence to invest."

China welcomes Musk

China rolled out the red carpet for Elon Musk yesterday with visits to the country's commerce ministry and industry ministry on the second day of his visit.

Musk, 51, met Wang Wentao, the commerce minister, before moving on to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, which has regulatory oversight of the automotive industry.

The billionaire's first visit to China in three years comes as Tesla faces intensifying competition from Chinese-made electric vehicles and some uncertainty about expansion plans for the Shanghai plant. The factory produced more than 700,000 Model Y and Model 3 vehicles last year, over half the company's global output. Another area of interest for investors is whether China's regulators will clear the release of Tesla's advanced driver assistance features, available in the United States as part of the "full self-driving" software it sells for $15,000 per vehicle.

Tesla and the ministries did not immediately reply to a request for comment on discussions with Musk.

A day earlier Musk met Qin Gang, China's foreign minister. He also had dinner with Zeng Yuqun, chairman of CATL, the Chinese battery group and a key Tesla supplier, on Tuesday evening, according to photographs shared on social media. CATL did not respond to requests for comment.

Ryan Bourne

Price controls are the sorry result of government inflation errors



You rush into your local Tesco after a long day only to find once again that the bread aisle is empty and there's not a single pint of milk in sight. A Soviet-style dystopia? Not quite. This could be our new normal soon, if the government gets its way.

Rishi Sunak is said to want to mimic the French government by using his pulpit to broker price caps with supermarkets on bread, milk and other basic food items to reduce living costs. Big chains signed up to the deal put forward by Bruno Le Maire, the French finance minister, in March to set prices "to the lowest possible level" as part of a government-branded "anti-inflation quarter".

Sunak's aides insist that such price caps will avoid the economic disruptions of mandated price controls in the 1970s, because they are "voluntary". Yet a government pressurising companies brings with it an implicit legislative threat. In France, the three-month agreement has been extended already and Le Maire has threatened tax rises on retailers if prices don't fall further. Behind the velvet glove is an iron fist.

The economics of such pressures is pretty grim. Government-backed food price caps have a history replete with failure. From grain price ceilings causing farmers to abandon work in ancient Rome to price caps exhausting food supplies in a besieged Antwerp in the 16th century, right through to Second World War price controls delivering extensive rationing and black markets, they cause legion economic distortions.

With retail profit margins of only 3 per cent and 3.8 per cent for Sainsbury's and Tesco, respectively, last year, the British Retail Consortium is right that our competitive retail market is not defined by customer rip-offs. Recall the shortages of rice and flour in leading chains during the early pandemic? That actually reflected supermarkets' unwillingness to risk their brands by raising prices substantially during an emergency. Only independent stores and online merchants had the goods available, at much higher prices.

If Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and others agree to sell certain essentials below market prices in today's inflationary conditions, we'd see such effects at a great scale. There'd be within-store shortages of covered products, with demand shifting to uncapped brands or corner shops, pushing up prices there.

To avoid empty shelves, supermarkets might limit per-customer purchases, or else promise caps on only their own-branded products where they can attempt cost controls. Given the slim margins, some supermarkets would push farmers and wholesalers to cut their prices, thereby reducing their incentive to produce or distribute food. Suppliers, as those in France have, then would demand that the government implements "spot checks" to ensure that supermarkets do not pass the profit buck to others.

The BRC says food production costs peaked late last year, meaning that future renegotiations of fixed-price contracts will lead to retail prices falling sharply soon. As Julian Jessop, the economist, points out, government-backed price ceilings ironically may keep prices above market rates. Formal negotiations might enable supermarkets to tacitly collude to recoup profits by keeping prices higher even as their costs fall.

Such effects might be deemed acceptable if these price caps reduced inflation. But, as the 1970s showed, they will not and, with controls limited to a few products, they cannot. The Bank of England and government often talk, misleadingly, as if businesses determine inflation through their pricing decisions. This error facilitates far-fetched concepts such as "greedflation," which emboldens calls for these hare-brained price controls. "Food prices inflation" has been at 19.1 per cent over the past 12 months, for example, notably higher than the overall 8.7 per cent consumer prices index. Government sources talk as if food prices are "driving" inflation by lifting the overall price level. Yet this confuses cause with effect. Rapidly rising food prices are a consequence of overly inflationary monetary policy and the supply shocks from the Ukraine war.

Capping retail milk and bread prices will combat neither of these forces and so will not reduce inflation. Any direct consumer savings from lower-priced bread and milk purchases would leave affected customers with more money for other spending, driving up prices elsewhere. The more prices get divorced from supply and demand, the worse the damage.

The reach for such anti-market policies is an underappreciated cost of macroeconomic mismanagement leading to high inflation. When inflation gets out of control, redistributing wealth arbitrarily, the public demands tangible measures. As Axel Leijonhufvud, the economist, explained in 1975, "there will be widespread and general complaining about rising prices … but that diffuse message is quite drowned in the rising babble of specific demands and concrete proposals … to compensate me, to regulate him, to control X's prices and to tax Y's 'excess profits'".

Governments, meanwhile, find it irresistible to supply such policies. Talk of targeted price controls allows the Conservatives to signal to large numbers of voters that they care, while quietly shifting the responsibility and blame for inflation from the central bank and Treasury to individual supermarkets.

Ultimately, though, Britain's food retailers are disciplined in what they can charge both by competition and their customers' willingness to pay. Asking them to cap certain prices to control inflation is futile. This price ceiling proposal represents a desperate, misguided attempt to hide inflation's symptoms from a government largely powerless to mitigate the scale of external shocks and the Bank's recent monetary errors.

Ryan Bourne is R Evan Scharf chair for the Public Understanding of Economics at the Cato Institute and author of the recent book Economics in One Virus



Price controls bring the risk of empty shelves in supermarkets

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Steve Brierley and Jamie Urquhart

How Britain can become a global leader in a world of quantum computing

The stakes are high for quantum computing. Britain is investing £2.5 billion over the next ten years, hoping to become a world leader in the technology by 2033. Success is not guaranteed, but it's a smart bet — if the money is invested wisely.

Analysts think quantum computing will create up to $850 billion in global economic value over the next 15 to 30 years. It's probably an underestimate. As with the birth of the world's first computers 75 years ago and smartphones 50 years later, we can be irrationally exuberant about the short-term impact of new technology, only to massively underestimate the long-term implications.

Quantum computers are transformative technology. Many mistakenly see them as simply superfast supercomputers. It's true that a large and reliable quantum computer could quickly perform complex tasks that a supercomputer — even one the size of the planet — would take decades to perform. Yet focusing on speed misses a bigger point. Quantum computers represent a new computing paradigm that will open possibilities for human progress that we've only just begun to imagine. They will help us accurately to simulate complex interactions between the molecules, proteins and chemical compounds that make up all organic and non-organic matter. And they'll transform our capabilities in fields such as aerospace and healthcare. The equations of our subatomic world are quantum mechanical, so the only way to solve and apply them is by building quantum computers.

> 'Quantum computers represent a new paradigm that will open possibilities we've only just begun to imagine'

Can the UK really be a global winner in this incredibly high-stakes game? Yes, but it won't be by outspending the United States, China or the European Union. As a nation, we're unlikely to even outspend some of America's and China's individual technology groups. However, Britain does have a winning playbook that we can learn from: we can design and engineer the complex chips that every quantum computer will need.

We achieved exactly this in the internet age, with the Cambridge-based Arm designing the chips and intellectual property that power 90 per cent of the world's smartphones and millions of other connected devices, large and small. The enduring global success of Arm comes from solving a crucial problem: how to put vastly more processing power on tiny micro-processors with vastly greater power efficiency. Openness, enabling the UK to attract the best global talent; and international collaboration, particularly through the Open Microprocessor Initiative, were also key to Arm's prowess.

What is quantum computing's crucial technical problem? Scale. Specifically, quantum computers must grow from performing a few hundred error-free quantum operations today to a trillion error-free operations to achieve their full potential. With focused innovation and collaboration, the UK quantum computing industry can work to solve this scaling problem for all quantum computers globally. Such UK leadership will require several things, including a new generation of chips. Expertise in the development, deployment and continuous scaling up of all types of quantum processors, known as "qubits", also will be required. Fortunately, our rich ecosystem of top universities and quantum computing companies, supported for the past decade by £1 billion in seed investment by the government, has resulted in the UK having the most quantum technology start-ups in Europe.

Now's the time to accelerate, not rest on our laurels. By becoming a quantum creator not a quantum buyer, we'll mitigate the risk of brain drain and prevent our existing quantum start-ups from migrating overseas. It's a smart strategy where the UK can play to its unique strengths, following in Arm's path to enable and accelerate quantum computing everywhere.

Steve Brierley is chief executive of Riverlane, a quantum computing start-up; Jamie Urquhart is a co-founder of Arm Holdings

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Business

Soda producer looks to float in London . . .

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The world's largest producer of natural soda ash, better known in Britain as sodium carbonate or washing soda, is set to float on the London Stock Exchange in a move that in due course would earn it a place in the FTSE 100.

London's largest initial public offering this year comes at a time of growing concern that the City is becoming less attractive to international investors.

WE Soda, an extractor of soda ash in Turkey and the United States, is a subsidiary of Ciner Group, an industrial and media conglomerate controlled by Turgay Ciner, 67, a UK-domiciled Turkish billionaire. The company, chaired by Ciner's wife, Didem, 42, has signalled its intention to float and new shares in it could be trading by July.

It is a high-margin business and last year it reported adjusted operating profits of $892 million on revenues of $1.77 billion. Initial talk in the City is of a valuation of between £5 billion and £7 billion, which would put it in the top 75 of Britain's largest companies.

WE Soda has indicated that it will sell at least 10 per cent of its shares to qualify for the FTSE 100, using the money to reduce debt and expand production in rich underground salt lake deposits in Turkey and in Wyoming.

Much of the world's production of soda ash is produced synthetically using the so-called Solvay process. WE Soda says it is the largest miner of natural deposits and that its production processes are less energy-intensive and cheaper as a result. It claims to be the only big natural soda ash extractor outside of Chinese operations in Mongolia. The majority of its production goes into glassmaking, increasingly the photovoltaic glass used in solar panels.

$892m

Ciner Group's adjusted profits for 2022
Source: Ciner

Sodium carbonate is widely used in powdered detergents and in other chemical and industrial processes, as well as in bicarbonate of soda or baking powder. It is a component in the production of lithium carbonate, which is needed for electric car batteries.

Despite the attractions of a host of competing stock markets, it is understood that the Ciners chose London because their family have made the city its home and because it is where WE Soda and several of their other interests in glass and shipping have their headquarters. WE Soda is short for West East Soda and London is the central timezone for its operations in the US and Turkey.

The company's boss is Alasdair Warren, 56, a former head of investment banking at Deutsche Bank. He became its chief executive five years ago. Warren said WE Soda was "an extraordinary business supplying essential products with no viable substitute".

WE Soda's board includes Harry Kenyon-Slaney, 62, a former Rio Tinto executive, as its senior independent director, and Sir Peter Westmacott, 72, the former UK ambassador to Turkey.

The company's announcement of an "expected intention" to float did not mention any political risk to its operations in Turkey, where it began production in 2009. The Ciners are not believed to be allies of President Erdogan, who was re-elected at the weekend, but neither have they been critics. Mehmet Ali Erdogan, 52, who sits on the board as the company's chief legal officer, is no relation to the president.

. . . while fintech chief heads for LA

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The co-founder of LendInvest has warned that Britain is a "very tough place" in which to build a business after becoming the latest financial technology entrepreneur to leave London for the United States.

The decision by Christian Faes, 46, to set up his next venture in Los Angeles is another blow to Britain's hopes of bolstering its status as a centre for finance and technology.

It comes after it emerged last week that Tom Blomfield, 37, a co-founder of Monzo, the digital bank, and GoCardless, a payments business, had gone to San Francisco to become a partner at Y Combinator, a start-up accelerator. Blomfield warned that the UK was "not always favourable to ambitious founders who want to do something unusual".

Faes also sounded a note of caution about the business environment in Britain. "The UK has been a very tough place to build a business the last five to six years," he said in comments first reported by Bloomberg. "We had the endless distraction of Brexit, Boris and the Liz Truss debacle and it's hard to see it getting better any time soon. I am still bullish on UK fintech, but I also feel the US market is a huge opportunity."

Faes, who is Australian, spent 15 years in London and set up LendInvest with Ian Thomas in 2012. The business is a non-bank mortgage lender that was listed on London's junior Aim stock market two years ago. Faes remains chairman of the group and will return to the UK regularly for board meetings.

His new LA-based firm, Faes & Co, will invest in "technology-enabled direct lending businesses", as well as managing a private credit fund.

The departures of Faes and Blomfield come amid growing concerns within the government about Britain's ability to attract and keep high-growth businesses in areas such as financial technology, technology and the life sciences, denting London's status as a hub for finance and innovation.

Drax in the spotlight over reports to regulator

The energy regulator is investigating whether Drax, the power company, is in breach of annual reporting requirements regarding its obligation to generate a certain level of energy from renewable sources (Arthi Nachiappan writes).

The renewables obligation scheme, which is administered by Ofgem, was introduced in 2002 to encourage power companies to generate electricity from renewable sources in the UK. Suppliers meet their obligations by presenting the regulator each year with renewable obligation certificates. Where they do not have sufficient certificates to show they have sourced enough electricity from the specified renewable sources, they must pay into a buyout fund, the proceeds of which are paid back to suppliers based on how many certificates they have presented.

Ofgem said: "We are investigating whether Drax Power Limited is in breach of annual profiling reporting requirements relating to the renewables obligations scheme and other related matters. The opening of this investigation does not imply that we have made any findings about possible non-compliance by Drax Power Limited."

Drax said Ofgem had confirmed it had not established any non-compliance that would stop the regulator from



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CLARE JACKSON/ALAMY; DANNY LAWSON/PA





Drax is seeking new biomass subsidies that it says would support carbon capture technology, but the burning of biomass is increasingly controversial

issuing it with renewable obligation certificates.

"Like all energy generators, Drax receives regular requests from Ofgem and continues to co-operate fully throughout this process," it said. "Last year Drax appointed a third party to independently verify the accuracy of its biomass sustainability and profiling data … Drax is confident in the compliance of its biomass with the renewables obligation criteria."

Shares in Drax fell by 36½p, or 6.2 per cent, to 553½p after Ofgem's announcement.

Drax produces electricity at its eponymous North Yorkshire power station, Britain's biggest. It has converted four units at the former coal-fired facility to burn biomass wood pellets that qualify for renewable energy subsidies on the basis that trees absorb carbon as they grow, offsetting the carbon emitted when they are burnt. Drax received £617 million in such payments from energy bill payers last year.

Drax's subsidies for biomass run out in 2027 and it is seeking new ones to support carbon capture technology on two of the units, which it has said will make the power plant carbon-negative. It had been pushing for the go-ahead for the bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, or Beccs, project in time for it to start in 2027, but in March the government declined to fast-track it and suggested that it may not start until 2030.

Drax has an independent board of scientists, academics and other experts that meets regularly to advise on the company's sustainability credentials. In November it said that "Drax should reassess its criteria for determining carbon neutrality" and should "move away from … stating biomass is carbon-neutral", in recommendations first reported by Sky News.

The company had a strong first quarter after achieving record profits last year and is planning to "return up to £150 million to shareholders via a share buyback programme" before the end of the year.

Labour peer steers Tata gigafactory in Somerset

Robert Lea

Lord Triesman, the Labour peer and a former chairman of the Football Association, is playing a role in — and will be a beneficiary of — the construction of a Tata "gigafactory" in Somerset for Jaguar Land Rover.

Tata, the Indian parent company of the Jaguar and Range Rover group, and the prime minister are set to announce the go-ahead for the car battery production plant after agreeing a deal that is likely to attract taxpayer funding of about £500 million.

The site near Bridgwater, known as the Gravity Smart Campus, is owned by Salamanca Group. A designated government enterprise zone, it has been marketed as a site for green economy advanced manufacturing, for sites such as a battery production plant, capable of creating thousands of jobs. Salamanca is a privately held, London-based merchant bank specialising in investing in property and infrastructure.

Triesman, 79, is the company's business development director. His role is described as being "responsible for developing new business opportunities [and he] brings a wealth of commercial experience and a career in politics". He is also a director of This is Gravity, a subsidiary company whose accounts show investment property of more than £100 million. Salamanca is likely to sell much of the site to Tata.



The Gravity smart campus will supply batteries to Jaguar and Range Rover

An ally of Tony Blair, Triesman was a member of the former prime minister's Labour government, where he served in the Foreign Office and later as an innovation minister. He was also a shadow spokesman under Ed Miliband's leadership. He is more widely known for his stint more than a decade ago as chairman of the FA.

The Gravity development is on the site of an old Royal Ordnance site closed in 2008 and sold by BAE Systems for an undisclosed sum in 2017 to Salamanca. It has been marketed as a site for a gigafactory because of its connections to the power grid, proximity to zero-emission energy from the nearby Hinkley Point nuclear plant, which is under construction, and its road and rail access to the M5 and the Great Western main line. Salamanca did not respond to a request for comment.

Conservative heartland constituencies that will be affected by the development include those represented locally by Liam Fox and Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former ministers.

The gigafactory will be the biggest investment in the British automotive industry since Nissan, Toyota and Honda, of Japan, signed up to come to the UK in the 1980s. The development comes after the failure of the Britishvolt gigafactory in Northumberland this year. Britain is reckoned to be in need of at least three large gigafactories if it is to retain a presence in the global automotive industry during the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Ithaca presses on with drilling plans

Greig Cameron

One of Britain's biggest North Sea oil and gas producers wants to push ahead with significant projects even as politicians consider ending further drilling in the basin.

Ithaca Energy said it was committed to large undeveloped fields such as Rosebank and Cambo because it believed they could enhance the nation's energy security and help to lower net carbon emissions.

It emerged over the weekend that a Labour government led by Sir Keir Starmer would look at stopping new oil and gas development if successful at the next general election.

The Scottish government's draft energy strategy also has a presumption against new oil and gas exploration, even though the powers for licensing are reserved to Westminster.

Until now, Rishi Sunak's government has continued to support new oil and gas licensing rounds, but its energy policy levy, an additional rate of tax on profit generated in the UK, has hampered investment, as well as reducing borrowing limits.

Ithaca, which was listed in London last year, has stakes in six of the ten largest fields on the UK continental shelf. It revealed yesterday that its first-quarter production was equivalent to 75,300 barrels of oil per day, which was ahead of forecasts. It expects to extract between 68,000 and 74,000 barrels daily this year and plans to pay $400 million in dividends.

Underlying profit in the first quarter of 2023 rose by 9 per cent to $518 million and net cashflow was 24 per cent higher year-on-year at $351.4 million. Ithaca's tax bill for the quarter more than doubled to $213.2 million, which analysts suggested was a direct result of the energy profits levy.

Alan Bruce, 41, chief executive, noted that the company was drilling exploration and appraisal wells in June, alongside investing in decarbonisation activities such as the potential for electrification of oil platforms.

He said: "We need in this country to have energy security, affordability and sustainability. Politicians will have a certain agenda to drive. We are continuing to have good engagement across the political spectrum, but it is difficult for us to make any forecasts on what might or might not happen."

Gilad Myerson, 47, the executive chairman, suggested that energy security, job creation, emissions reduction and low energy costs would be important for any government. "In terms of delivering against those objectives, it is very clear the UK will be using hydrocarbons in the next ten to twenty to thirty, potentially forty years," he said. "The question becomes, 'Are we using those hydrocarbons on our doorsteps or importing them from abroad?

"We are spending a lot of time educating the different decision-makers on the implications of different policies. If you boil it down to basic arithmetic, then if you look at Rosebank or Cambo they provide energy security, provide jobs, lower the net UK emission and provide low UK energy costs."

Shares in Ithaca Energy fell 7¾p, or 5.1 per cent, to 144¼p.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Stock markets across the world remain volatile, while British companies are scrambling to cope with the effects of soaring costs.

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Business

Entain warns of substantial ‘bribery’ fine

Tom Howard

The owner of Ladbrokes and Coral has warned that it faces a “substantial financial penalty” from authorities in Britain looking into historic corporate misconduct at its former Turkish online gaming business.

Entain conceded that a fine was “likely”, although exactly how big was not clear. Ed Young, an industry analyst at Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, has included a fine of about £230 million in his forecasts; David Brohan, an analyst at Goodbody, the broker, agreed that a figure above £200 million looked probable.

Entain, one of the biggest gaming companies in the world, was formed by



Jette Nygaard-Andersen is Entain’s chief executive

the acquisition of Ladbrokes Coral by GVC in late 2017. As part of that deal, GVC sold off Headlong, its Turkish online betting business, which it had bought six years earlier.

In 2019, HM Revenue & Customs opened an investigation looking into “potential corporate offending” by some of Headlong’s third-party suppliers, namely the payment service providers it was using. At the time, Turkey was a “grey market”, which meant gambling companies were not allowed a physical presence there, although their online games could be accessed. Because the operators themselves were not allowed to, they enlisted the help of local companies to process payments.

The UK tax office’s inquiry was broadened in 2020 to include the company and former employers, and the Crown Prosecution Service has now taken on the investigation. Entain said that it “continues to co-operate fully” with both bodies. Although no specifics have been released, the alleged offences are said to relate to section 7 of the Bribery Act, which details the checks and balances that businesses are expected to have in place to prevent “associated persons” from committing acts of bribery.

Entain, which accepts that historical misconduct involving former suppliers and employees “may have occurred”, is now in deferred prosecution agreement negotiations with the CPS.

Barry Gibson, the group’s chairman, said he wanted to reach a resolution with both the tax office and the CPS “as soon as is practical”, although there was no certainty about when the investigation might be completed or when any fine might be levied.

“We are keen to achieve a resolution to what is a historical issue relating principally to a business that was sold by the group nearly six years ago,” Gibson, 71, said.

“Entain has been through a period of extraordinary transformation since then and has taken decisive action to be a best-in-class, responsible operator with outstanding corporate governance. The board and leadership teams have been overhauled, 100 per cent of our revenue is now from regulated or regulating markets, and our business model, strategy and culture have been reviewed, analysed and stress-tested.”

Jette Nygaard-Andersen, 54, a non-executive director, was appointed chief executive of Entain in 2021.

City analysts agreed that the update suggested that the investigation was nearing its conclusion.

“While unhelpful to bring this issue back into focus, it is encouraging to see it moving towards its conclusion,” Brohan said.

Reflecting the likelihood of a heavy fine, Entain shares fell 55½p, or 4 per cent, to £13.19.

Ivor Jones, a leisure analyst at Peel Hunt, expects the lingering uncertainty to “weigh on the share price” until the size of any penalty is known.



WealthTek boss faces criminal FCA inquiry

The City regulator has launched a criminal investigation into the racehorse-owning boss of WealthTek around a potential £81 million gap in the collapsed fund management company’s finances (Jonathan Ames writes).

Officials at the Financial Conduct Authority confirmed that John Dance was being investigated over possible fraud and money-laundering offences, as well as potential regulatory breaches.

Detectives from Northumbria police and FCA officials arrested Dance, 48, on April 4 and interviewed him under caution. He has not been charged.

In a statement yesterday, the authority said it was “aware of the potential shortfall” as of the beginning of April of £81.4 million in client assets and cash that was “associated” with WealthTek, which also trades as Vertem Asset Management. It said investigators were working closely with the administrators of WealthTek from BDO, the accountancy firm, and that BDO had informed customers of the fund manager “that further investigations are needed to establish the full picture”.

In a report to investors this week, BDO said that of the £233 million that WealthTek had held on its platform, there was a shortfall of £71.7 million in custody assets and £9.7 million in client money.

BDO said the “special administrators naturally understand the concern this will cause to clients and are working as quickly as possible … to expedite matters, given the position they inherited and issues they faced on their appointment”.

Dance’s arrest and the criminal investigation have triggered uncertainty over the future of his stable of horses. The multimillionaire is one of the best-known owners in British racing, most recently for his horse Bravemansgame, a former winner of the King George VI Chase and a runner-up at the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The racing authorities forced ownership of that horse to transfer to its co-

Inflation expectations hit two-year low

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

Britons’ inflation expectations have fallen to the lowest level in two years, even though consumer prices have stayed stubbornly high.

A monthly poll of households undertaken by YouGov for Citigroup, the American investment bank, found that consumers thought long-run inflation over five to ten years would be 3.5 per cent, down from expectations of 3.6 per cent in April and the lowest reading since August 2021. Short-term inflation expectations fell by 0.5 percentage points to 4.7 per cent, the weakest since December 2021, when the Bank of England started raising interest rates.

Household inflation expectations are used as a measure of a central bank’s credibility in controlling inflation at low and stable levels and are a key channel through which interest rates work. If consumers expect inflation to be much higher, they can adjust their behaviour accordingly, deepening a price spiral through demands for higher wages.

Inflation expectations have been relatively stable in recent months, even as inflation has failed to fall back as much as expected. Consumer prices inflation fell to 8.7 per cent in April from 10.1 per cent in March, higher than forecasts from the Bank.

Benjamin Nabarro, economist at Citi, said household inflation expectations had been hit by the volatile nature of food prices, which have surged by as much as 19 per cent in recent months.

“Our data suggest household inflation expectations remain anchored at target consistent levels,” Nabarro said. “With food shortages primarily responsible for recent volatility and headline inflation now on a downward trajectory, we think these data are more likely to ease further.”

Similar polling for the Bank shows inflation expectations anchored at about the 3 per cent level for the next three to five years. Households’ concerns have come down from the peak recorded last August, when energy prices were soaring.

Focus on core, urges Mann

The UK is suffering a worse inflation problem than its American and European neighbours, a member of the Bank of England’s monetary policy committee has said. Catherine Mann said it was “more persistent” than in other economies, after core inflation hit a 31-year high in April. Headline inflation eased to the lowest level since August. Mann told a forum hosted by Pictet, the Swiss fund management firm, that the Bank should focus on core inflation, which measures underlying price pressures.

THE TIMES
Enterprise Network
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B&M profits as shoppers trade down

Isabella Fish

The boss of the B&M and Heron Foods has said the discounter is benefiting from cash-strapped customers trading down from more expensive rivals as the cost of living bites.

Group revenue at B&M European Value Retail rose by 6.6 per cent to £4.9 billion in the year to March 25, up 30.7 per cent on pre-pandemic levels. Like-for-like sales in Britain in the first nine weeks of the new financial year also were up 8.3 per cent.

Discount retailers generally have performed better than their mainstream peers as people have become more price-sensitive.

Alejandro Russo, chief executive of

STEVEN PASTON/PA





owner, Bryan Drew, owing to the investigation into Dance. Several weeks later, the British Horseracing Authority lifted the ban on horses competing through Dance's business, Coverdale Stud and Titanium Racing Club.

The racing authority said "any prize-money or other business profits will be frozen under the terms of the High Court's order" and its officials said they were in "dialogue with the FCA to supervise this arrangement".

Dance, who started out in the postroom of a stockbroking firm before working for Merrill Lynch, owns a club in Newcastle and promotes himself as an occasional DJ.

Before going into administration, WealthTek provided services to retail clients and their intermediaries.

Dance was contacted for comment.

John Dance is one of horse racing's best-known owners, most recently for Bravemansgame, a former winner of the King George VI Chase

the FTSE 100 retailer, which sells products from toys to frozen food to garden furniture, said: "I am seeing good trade-down into us from higher-price-point competitors. Till receipts have growth every month consistently since June last summer. Customers are driving like-for-like sales and our price points are leading in the market."

Russo, 51, said the business had experienced especially strong demand for its home and garden categories, with customers buying textiles, decor, DIY and furniture to revamp their homes.

Pre-tax profit at the group fell by 12.6 per cent to £436 million in the year as trading returned to more normal levels after the bumper demand enjoyed during the pandemic. Adjusted core profit was £573 million for the same period, down 7.4 per cent from last year and in line with expectations.

The business said it had battled with "economic headwinds" and "material cost pressures". It has had to reflect inflationary pressures in some categories by increasing prices, but Russo said: "We never lead on price increases ... we go below the market." He said the company had started to notice deflation in some areas of the supply chain.

B&M European Value Retail is a British multinational variety store chain founded in 1978 and incorporated in Luxembourg. The group has 707 B&M shops in the UK, 306 Heron Foods shops and 104 Babou shops in France.

Russo said the business would open 30 new B&M stores in the UK over the next year, "all the way from Northern Ireland to Sussex". It wants to have a minimum of 950 B&M stores nationwide over the next few years.

The B&M boss confirmed he had no plans to launch a transactional website. "We've trialled online in the past, but it's not consistent with a low-cost business. We're very happy not operating online and we're very clear of the proposition. It's about good store standards, bestsellers and limited ranges."

Shares in B&M European Value Retail rose by 38p, or 8 per cent, to 510p. Its stock has increased by about 30 per cent in the past year.

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Summer is looking good at WH Smith

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

WH Smith has raised its annual profit outlook as it bets on a travel boom this summer.

The retailer was hit hard during the pandemic because many of its shops are in airports and railway stations. It announced 1,500 job cuts in 2020.

However, with those restrictions long since lifted, its travel business reported a 31 per cent increase in sales in the 13 weeks to May 27, up 18 per cent on a like-for-like basis, meaning that expectations for the full financial year have "modestly improved".

Its British travel division reported a 24 per cent increase over the period, with airport sales up 26 per cent, hospitals ahead by 33 per cent and rail by 10 per cent, despite industrial action across the national network. This momentum meant that overall first-quarter group sales were up 23 per cent compared with last year.

WH Smith said its travel business would represent more than 70 per cent of all revenues by the end of the year, as well as 85 per cent of its profits.

The company plans to open more than 120 new travel shops, 50 of them in the present half-year. About 60 will be in North America and the rest will be spread throughout Scandinavia, Spain, Australia, Malaysia and Britain.

WH Smith has about 550 travel shops in Britain and 250 overseas. It runs about 550 high street shops and employs 14,000 staff.

Revenue from the retailer's high street business, including online, was up 2 per cent in the 13-week period. It said its store network had performed well, with total revenue up 2 per cent.

WH Smith said that it was in a "good position" ahead of the peak summer period and was "very well positioned for further growth" in its various travel markets. It said its expectations for the full financial year had "modestly improved", but did not provide an outlook range.

Shares in WH Smith rose by 42p, or 2.8 per cent, to £15.70.



Business Unit Trusts

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	148.03	...	+1.35	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	313.80	...	-2.52	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	7822.93	...	-59.78	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2116.90	...	-24.63	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	394.37	...	-4.39	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	331.06	...	-3.39	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	149.31	...	-1.50	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	93.86	...	-0.95	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.03	...	-0.93	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.82	...	+0.19	...
Income R Acc ‡@	504.71	...	-3.35	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	216.67	...	-1.44	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	62.31	...	-0.11	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.67	...	-0.70	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.68	...	+0.62	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.24	...	+0.32	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.50	...	+0.61	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.20	...	+0.32	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	726.53	...	-6.39	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1790.97	...	-11.34	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	692.66	...	-7.08	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	2947.00	...	-13.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	204.20	...	-1.40	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	213.20	...	-0.80	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1834.00	...	-14.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	256.10	...	-1.30	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	209.90	...	-2.40	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	798.70	...	-0.90	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	620.20	...	-3.70	2.04
UK Income ‡@	199.90	...	-1.10	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3590.61	...	-31.65	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	83.05	...	+0.60	4.15
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	320.20	...	-3.20	1.90
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	339.00	...	-0.90	0.59
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	120.80	...	-0.20	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	219.60	...	-0.40	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	271.20	...	+0.60	1.15

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1265.00	...	-12.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.39	...	+0.11	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	417.90	...	-3.80	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	305.60	...	-0.40	...
High Inc Trst @	10.96	11.56	...	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.69	...	+0.08	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	840.60	...	+2.40	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	466.30	...	-5.30	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.50	...	+0.80	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1007.00	...	-4.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2152.00	...	-4.00	...
American ‡@	5441.00	...	+8.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	592.40	...	-6.30	0.31
European ‡@	3522.00	...	-33.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	21.96	...	+0.16	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5543.00	...	-21.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2928.00	...	-7.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	561.20	...	-3.40	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	42.36	...	-0.04	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.43	...	+0.26	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	127.97	...	-1.17	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4429.00	...	-27.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.62	...	+0.28	...
Ethical ‡@	113.10	...	...	0.01
European ‡@	112.30	...	-1.20	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	110.80	...	-1.20	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	134.20	...	-0.60	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	126.60	...	-0.60	1.44
Japanese ‡	71.27	...	-0.82	...
North Amer ‡	152.70	...	+0.40	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	102.80	...	+0.20	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	49.73	...	-0.29	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	89.86	...	-0.79	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	69.85	...	-0.69	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	78.55	...	-0.70	...
UK Growth ‡@	81.26	...	-0.69	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	942.57	...	+4.74	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	747.03	...	+3.76	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1205.30	...	-13.83	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	750.22	...	-8.61	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	275.67	...	-2.80	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	123.10	...	-1.25	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	283.52	...	-1.12	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	169.04	...	-0.67	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	699.77	...	-7.11	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	347.69	...	-3.53	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	144.31	...	-1.27	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	110.33	...	-0.97	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	495.77	...	-8.38	2.64
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	301.13	...	-5.10	2.70

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	240.82	...	-0.25	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	260.92	...	+2.30	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	100.32	...	+0.89	3.36
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	702.55	...	-9.33	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	288.25	...	-3.83	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	125.50	...	-0.69	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	143.87	...	-1.70	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	63.50	...	-0.75	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	143.87	...	-1.70	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	63.50	...	-0.75	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	942.57	...	+4.74	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	747.03	...	+3.76	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	467.64	...	-0.99	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	195.63	...	+1.77	...
High Income Inc ‡@	312.66	...	-2.15	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	416.44	...	-1.70	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1226.05	...	-8.07	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.20	...	+0.04	1.95
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.52	...	+0.54	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	887.30	...	-8.81	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1306.76	...	-5.95	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	698.45	...	+1.09	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	719.59	...	-10.58	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	371.93	...	+0.36	1.88
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	233.12	...	+0.22	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	127.08	...	+0.32	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	134.57	...	+0.33	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.75	...	+0.51	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.67	...	+0.11	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	112.65	...	+0.35	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.40	...	+0.20	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	143.32	...	-1.07	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	182.36	...	+0.72	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.66	...	+0.28	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	233.04	...	-0.44	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	307.17	...	-1.78	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1265.03	...	-1.73	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	189.61	...	-0.20	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	314.67	...	-2.46	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	243.40	...	-1.90	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	275.96	...	+1.68	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.82	...	-0.01	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2644.13	...	-22.36	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4611.50	...	-11.63	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4136.23	...	-10.43	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1379.52	...	-11.70	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	494.52	...	-4.19	1.57

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	110.80	...	+1.00	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	75.47	...	-0.81	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	280.60	...	+0.50	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	137.20	...	+0.30	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1023.00	...	-18.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	190.60	...	-0.80	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	298.20	...	-3.30	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2264.00	...	-35.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.23	...	+0.28	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4140.00	...	-21.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	66.19	...	-0.47	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3202.00	...	+14.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	113.27	...	-1.70	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	163.20	...	+0.10	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	256.00	...	+0.50	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	144.40	...	+0.60	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	187.30	...	+0.90	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	199.30	...	+1.90	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	54.11	...	+0.51	1.88
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	101.40	...	+1.20	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	169.80	...	...	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	136.00	...	-1.20	1.12



	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1799.00	...	-8.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.91	...	+0.06	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	95.59	...	+0.05	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	465.22	...	-2.88	...
European ‡@	2988.93	...	-17.49	...
Financial Opps ‡@	680.87	...	-0.67	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	493.15	...	-5.58	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	230.50	...	+0.38	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	538.20	...	+1.82	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	339.79	...	+0.64	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	379.07	...	+1.52	...
UK Growth ‡@	260.50	...	-0.64	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	201.78	...	-1.97	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	531.70	...	-5.90	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	348.30	...	-3.90	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	127.80	...	+1.10	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	59.61	...	+0.54	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	106.50	...	-1.10	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	104.60	...	+1.60	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.10	...	+0.40	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	70.56	...	-0.48	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	199.40	...	-2.00	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	343.00	...	-3.10	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	162.90	...	-1.50	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	823.00	...	+2.70	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	334.80	...	-1.20	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1421.63	...	-13.65	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	674.03	...	-4.11	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	73.27	...	+1.00	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.40	...	+0.47	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	108.18	...	+1.73	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	76.00	...	-0.69	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.95	...	+0.06	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2770.47	...	-13.99	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.79	...	+0.33	...
Dividend Inc ‡	51.56	...	-0.05	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	106.21	...	-1.53	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	324.10	...	-1.30	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.26	...	-0.19	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.40	84.40	+0.44	4.19
High Income Acc	238.80	238.80	+1.30	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	453.80	453.80	-6.30	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	222.90	222.90	-3.20	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	336.30	336.30	-4.40	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	696.00	696.00	-9.10	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	933.30	933.30	-0.20	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	545.90	545.90	-0.10	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	743.21	...	-13.09	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	739.00	...	-13.02	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	921.11	...	-3.96	5.25
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	842.42	...	-3.62	5.44
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	919.59	...	-3.96	5.27
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	840.86	...	-3.62	5.46
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	927.34	...	-2.40	1.49
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	907.78	...	-2.35	1.50
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	926.02	...	-2.40	1.43
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	907.54	...	-2.36	1.43
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1307.12	...	-10.44	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1820.91	...	-14.56	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1397.59	...	-11.17	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13606.62	...	-115.67	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1568.97	...	-19.19	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3724.95	...	-31.67	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1497.13	...	-18.30	0.70
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	550.37	...	-0.33	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	550.37	...	-0.32	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	547.52	...	-0.33	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	547.52	...	-0.33	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1175.70	...	-11.96	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1258.63	...	-8.04	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1275.89	...	-8.16	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1173.70	...	-11.95	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1283.19	...	-8.20	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	117.93	...	+1.06	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	92.24	...	+0.83	3.40
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2506.97	...	+22.46	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1308.45	...	+11.72	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	932.07	...	+1.72	2.81
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	886.92	...	+1.64	2.88
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	927.49	...	+1.70	2.62
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	886.57	...	+1.63	2.67
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1516.96	...	+0.91	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	856.22	...	-3.46	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1612.62	...	+0.95	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	896.79	...	-3.62	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	228.30	...	+0.20	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	197.00	...	+0.10	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	263.80	263.80	+0.10	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	454.00	...	+0.50	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	239.10	...	+0.20	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	888.62	937.86	-10.99	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3520.00	...	-48.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	384.20	...	-5.20	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	190.30	...	-2.60	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	274.60	...	+1.00	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	101.10	...	+0.30	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	378.40	...	-2.40	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	230.60	...	+0.70	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.60	...	+0.20	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	375.10	...	-2.60	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	116.40	...	-0.80	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	183.60	...	+0.70	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.95	...	+0.28	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	193.90	...	-2.20	2.90
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2322.00	...	-14.00	1.33

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	424.20	...	-5.80	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	189.20	...	-2.50	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	125.10	...	-1.50	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.06	...	+0.42	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.82	...	+0.23	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	94.90	...	+0.46	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	204.00	...	+0.50	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	151.90	...	+1.50	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	50.42	...	+0.48	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	147.50	...	-0.10	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	194.80	...	-0.10	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	162.00	...	-0.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.00	...	+0.10	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.69	...	+0.02	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	362.40	...	-1.70	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	262.90	...	-2.50	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	71.15	...	-0.68	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	202.00	...	-0.30	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	744.20	...	-4.40	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.93	...	...	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.07	...	...	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.95	...	+0.36	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.51	...	+0.31	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	327.45	...	-0.94	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	293.81	...	-0.84	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	336.95	...	-0.55	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	245.01	...	+0.47	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	127.15	...	-0.70	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.36	...	+0.02	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.91	...	-0.10	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	52.35	...	+0.44	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	52.25	...	+0.45	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	42.27	...	+0.57	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.17	...	+0.15	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	99.48	...	-0.23	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	92.49	...	-0.26	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	180.30	...	-1.43	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	67.85	...	-0.34	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	136.66	...	-0.72	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	347.40	...	-2.07	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	950.90	950.90	-2.50	...
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.75	+ .31	1.44	2.70
109.69	99.11	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.22	+ .04	...	1.10
113.48	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.23	+ .18	...	0.76
123.61	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	103.09	+ .30	1.33	0.55
117.92	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.91	+ .33	...	0.53
118.39	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	97.54	+ .35	...	0.56
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	334.92	+1.42	1.93	0.75
123.23	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	97.80	+ .53	...	0.40
137.65	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	107.04	+ .64	1.17	0.49
133.32	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	101.01	+ .73	...	0.65
289.48	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	238.15	+1.87	1.02	0.85
129.16	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	91.71	+ .89	...	0.77
148.29	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	104.06	+ .97	1.14	0.83
131.32	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	88.07	+ .95	...	0.94
142.79	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	94.87	+1.07	...	0.96
134.89	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	85.75	+1.12	...	0.98
148.03	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	93.21	+1.23	0.67	1.01
135.97	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	82.11	+1.18	...	1.09
137.73	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	79.95	+1.21	...	1.12
158.53	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	92.03	+1.41	0.83	1.12
140.21	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	78.23	+1.36	...	1.12
154.52	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	85.80	+1.44	...	1.11
148.63	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	79.24	+1.39	...	1.09
194.37	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	105.40	+1.55	1.31	1.05
149.13	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	74.69	+1.24	...	1.02
151.14	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	73.86	+1.13	...	1.02
168.60	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	80.82	+1.15	...	0.97
164.46	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	72.36	+1.10	...	0.91
171.62	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	71.79	+ .94	...	0.89
188.63	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	75.07	+1.05	...	0.72

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
143.04	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	76.59	+1.35	...	1.11
78.69	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	48.81	+ .80	...	4.46
132.80	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	88.11	+1.15	...	4.48
83.95	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	51.20	+ .80	...	4.46
86.73	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	52.57	+ .86	...	4.44
148.14	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	96.52	+1.30	4.40	4.45
89.85	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	53.48	+ .96	...	4.39
147.23	87.32	Tr 4% 60	92.60	+1.42	...	4.41
57.80	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	29.41	+ .73	...	4.24
111.19	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	64.50	+1.16	...	4.34
140.44	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	83.23	+1.44	...	4.35
86.15	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	46.57	+1.03	...	4.23
71.08	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	36.39	+ .88	...	4.14
103.74	85.32	Tr 3¾% 53	87.60	+1.16	...	4.50
134.92	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	103.90	+ .85	4.57	4.40
84.53	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	62.88	+ .66	...	4.44
128.07	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	97.80	+ .87	4.35	4.44
129.21	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	97.51	+ .91	...	4.46
83.80	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	60.07	+ .71	...	4.45
115.33	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	83.14	+ .93	...	4.51
135.11	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	100.35	+1.02	4.48	4.47
120.03	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	86.01	+ .98	...	4.52
135.24	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	96.09	+1.09	4.42	4.52
74.22	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	48.86	+ .73	...	4.50
84.68	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	56.02	+ .81	...	4.51
89.57	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	58.53	+ .84	...	4.49
139.18	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	95.98	+1.16	4.43	4.51
66.37	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	39.91	+ .70	...	4.44

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.80	+ .38	...	4.48
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.93	+ .41	...	4.19
113.40	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	100.17	+ .47	4.24	4.21
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	83.04	+ .42	...	4.16
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	88.19	+ .53	...	4.09
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.45	+ .35	...	4.40
99.70	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.95	+ .33	...	4.27
126.68	107.13	Tr 6% 28	109.06	+ .60	5.50	4.15
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.56	+ .50	...	4.19
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	82.31	+ .54	...	4.04
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.61	+ .42	...	4.07
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	104.49	+ .51	4.55	4.05
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	73.53	+ .45	...	4.10
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	77.41	+ .48	...	4.13
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	101.35	+ .56	4.19	4.07
101.14	91.30	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	92.73	+ .56	...	4.17
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	72.79	+ .50	...	4.19
126.68	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	102.44	+ .69	4.39	4.22
82.71	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	65.57	+ .55	...	4.29
125.01	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	99.56	+ .76	4.27	4.29
94.18	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	72.30	+ .66	...	4.38
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	92.77	+ .73	...	4.43

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.22	93.15	Tr 2% 25	94.82	+ .23	...	4.43
100.88	96.83	Tr 3½% 25	97.23	+ .20	...	4.74
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	89.70	+ .28	...	4.26
97.47	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	92.95	+ .21	...	4.32
108.90	100.36	Tr 5% 25	100.70	+ .19	4.97	4.58
96.42	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	92.91	+ .18	...	4.73
102.37	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.72	+ .13	...	4.62
99.50	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.50	+ .02	...	4.17
100.79	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.40	+ .03	...	4.45
97.54	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.08	+ .08	...	4.63
98.92	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.82	+ .10	...	4.72

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

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Red tape and rules are chilling for food firms, warns Iceland



ALAMY

Thérèse Coffey, below, has met food manufacturers to discuss rising prices

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Government red tape and regulations are "driving up" costs for British food businesses, according to Iceland.

The frozen foods chain complained about cost burdens related to restrictions on the promotion of foods that are high in fat, sugar and salt, as well as proposed post-Brexit border controls, including the Windsor framework.

It also pointed to the new packaging recycling scheme, called extended producer responsibility, which is due to start next April and which it is estimated will add an overall £1.7 billion cost to businesses.

"The government is driving up costs . . . It is within [its] control to look at what individual departments are doing and pause, stop and rethink," an Iceland spokeswoman said. "Anything to reinforce the need for government to play a positive role — take action as opposed to hold meetings — in costs and ease of doing of business would help."

At a meeting with food manufacturers last month, Thérèse Coffey, the environment, food and rural affairs secretary, is understood to have said there was a limit to what the government could do because of competition law. The government has been meeting industry bosses over recent weeks to find out how they can work together to tackle issues including rising food prices. Over the weekend it emerged that the government was drawing up proposals for a voluntary scheme that would force supermarkets to put price caps on food staples such as bread and milk to help with rising costs. The sector has called it a "hare-brained gimmick" that would push inflation on to other products and reduce competition.

Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, the lobbying body for retailers, said: "With food production costs rising significantly over the last year owing to high energy costs, global food prices and labour shortages, we have seen a knock-on impact to prices on the shelves. As these costs begin to fall, we expect to see food prices inflation falling away in the coming months."



He said the government "can also play a role by minimising the financial impact of some incoming regulations, such as the [Scotland] deposit return scheme and reforms to extended producer responsibility, that might otherwise increase costs for consumers".

Clive Black, an analyst from Shore Capital, said that the government had "lost the dressing room" with the big food businesses.

A government spokeswoman said: "We are committed to supporting the growth of British business and aim to provide comprehensive guidance on regulations and restrictions throughout the transition process.

"Through the Windsor framework, we have secured a new sustainable, long-term legal framework for agrifood retail trade into Northern Ireland. We are working closely with businesses to ensure they can adapt to these new arrangements without incurring unnecessary costs."

Inflation fall eases burden on spending

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Household income after taxes and spending on essential bills has risen for the first time in 17 months as the soaring rate inflation slows down, new figures show.

Spending power for British households returned to marginal growth in April for the first time since October 2021, according to the latest income tracker published by Asda, the supermarkets group.

The amount that people had left over to spend on themselves after essential spending rose by 37p, or 0.2 per cent, based on an average household income of £943 a week, when compared with the same period in the year before.

The tracker factored in £589 on essential spending, which includes energy bills, and £147 a week on taxes. This left an average of £207 left to spend per household, per week.

In April, inflation fell back into single digits for the first time since August last year, dropping to 8.7 per cent from 10.1 per cent the month before. The main reason for the decline, which was higher than the Bank of England had expected, was that the sharp jump in energy prices last April was now stripped out of the calculation.

On a monthly basis, spending money for households continued to fall, dropping from £210 in March to £207.

SPONSORED CONTENT

CYBER INSIGHTS

'Diversity could give you the edge'



At a Times event, experts from the digital and cybersecurity industries discussed how recruiting from different backgrounds and cultures is the key to success

'Ultimately, roles in cybersecurity are held by people," says Victoria Knight, strategic campaigns director at BAE Systems Digital Intelligence. "We need to ensure they have the right mix of skills – and that means we have to recruit people from diverse backgrounds."

Knight, right, was talking about the importance of diversity within national security and in the wider digital industry, during a recent Times event sponsored by BAE Systems Digital Intelligence.

Diversity is not just a "nice to have", it is key to success. Different backgrounds and cultures bring a greater breadth of insights – and ultimately may give you the edge.

The cyber industry does reasonably well on some fronts. The second annual National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) *Decrypting Diversity* report, published in 2021, found the UK cybersecurity industry has above average representation from the LGBTQIA+ community and from people with neurodivergency or a disability.

> In London, you see opportunities everywhere. In Rochdale, people can't imagine these careers because they don't currently see them

However, there is more to be done. Twenty-five per cent of respondents said they had experienced a career barrier relating to diversity, equity and inclusion. And the industry remains predominantly male and heavily concentrated in London and the southwest.

Richard Jones, professor of materials physics and innovation policy at the University of Manchester, notes the importance of geography, with deprived areas under-represented. "In London or Cambridge, you see opportunities everywhere. In Rochdale, people often can't imagine these careers because they don't currently see them," he says.



Chelsea Slater, CEO of tech social enterprise InnovateHer, believes that you need to target people and speak a language they understand.

"Liverpool FC employs 400 technical people behind the scenes but hardly anyone knows that," she says. "Why aren't we making it relevant? We need to link the things we're really good at, and well known for culturally, with technology and security."

She adds that the cyber industry is well placed to recruit more widely because it uses a broader range of disciplines than many similar fields.

Gender balance also needs addressing. There has been progress in this area: in April, it was announced that the new director of GCHQ was to be Anne Keast-Butler. With strong role models, the industry has a significant opportunity to redress the skew in female representation, which stands at 36 per cent in the cybersecurity industry according to the NCSC report, and 19 per cent in the IT industry as a whole, according to a comprehensive 2021 study by BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT. Higher up the career ladder, these figures drop still further. A focus on providing support for working parents and women returning from maternity leave would help.

On the plus side, there is now a widespread recognition that the cyber and digital industries need to recruit more widely. For example, BAE Systems provides educational outreach to schools, often in deprived areas, to inspire children to consider a career in digital engineering – and has helped create a thriving digital ecosystem in the northwest.

Simon Cook, professor of data and cyber at Lancaster University, agrees the northwest has huge potential when it comes to levelling up. "There is a critical skills and talent pipeline here, and there are big supply chains," he says. "But there are also a lot of poor communities."

Knight adds that, when you combine this with the current booming demand for workers in this sector, "it's a once in a generation opportunity".

For more information, visit baesystems.com/digital

BAE SYSTEMS

Emma Powell **Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Jury's out on stock's long-term value

B&M EUROPEAN VALUE RETAIL

Annual pre-tax profit £436m	Dividend yield 8.8%

The capacity of B&M European Value Retail to leverage its status as a discounter in the cost of living crisis has never been clear-cut. True, there is the chance it could attract more shoppers trading down, but the fallout from stubbornly high inflation also has a disproportionate effect on the lower-income households that make up the core of budget retailers' customer base.

Just how much share has the retailer taken amid the pressure on household finances? Like-for-like sales in the core British business were only 0.7 per cent higher over the 12 months to the end of March — a disappointing showing, even if at least half of that was the result of increased transaction volumes rather than simply price inflation. Pre-tax profits fell by 17 per cent to £436 million, the product of higher markdowns in excess stock earlier in the year, investing more in improving stores and cost inflation.

Bulls might point to a year of two halves. UK same-store sales fell by 3.2 per cent over the six months to the end of September last year, the consequence of a post-pandemic comedown, a period in which B&M benefited from its "essential retailer" status. But in the latter six months, same-store sales in Britain rose by 5.1 per cent and they strengthened further to 8.3 per cent over the first nine weeks of this financial year. Yet that is also against annual declines in both comparative periods in the financial year before, which amounted to 12.4 per cent and 13.2 per cent, respectively.

Guidance for this year is vague, save for Alex Russo, the chief executive, bracing the market for growth in adjusted earnings before interest, taxes and other charges. Analysts had forecast adjusted earnings of £579 million for the year.

Investors are unconvinced. Even after a near-8 per cent rally on results day, the shares have been valued more cheaply than they were before the leap in sales during lockdowns. A forward earnings multiple of 13 is below a long-running average of 18.

Last year's revenue of £4.98 billion and adjusted pre-tax earnings of £573 million are said to be a new baseline against which B&M will grow. In Britain, Russo has said pre-tax margins will remain higher than pre-pandemic levels, at between 12 per cent and 13 per cent, and will return to growth this year.

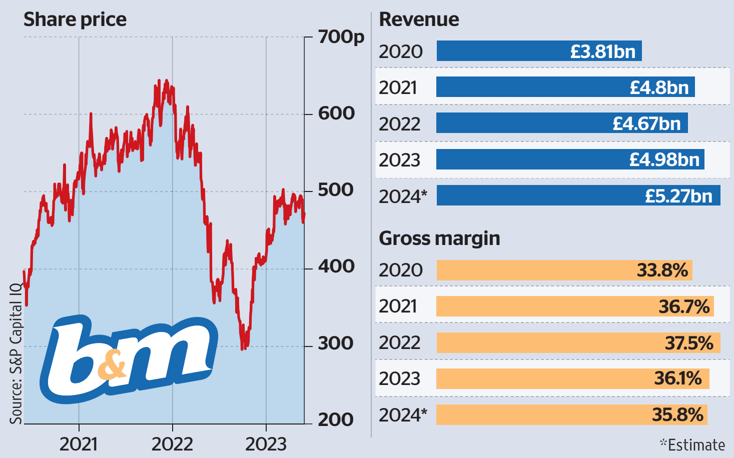
Last year B&M cleared about £100 million of excess stock, which pulled down the gross margin in the UK to 12.4 per cent. That was predominantly more profitable merchandise, too. Inventories stood at £764 million at the end of March, below the £863 million at the end of last year, a cleaner position to be trading with and one that could prevent B&M from marking down more stock once the spring/summer season is passed.

Easing freight and goods costs will also help margins. B&M's strategy has been to buy narrow but deep, which helps with negotiations with suppliers. It also deals with very few distributors, instead sourcing directly from manufacturers.

Ultimately, whether B&M can bank the economies of scale will depend on holding on to increased transaction volumes and keeping the weighting of bigger-margin categories such as general merchandise higher up in the mix. Analysts at Jefferies are sceptical, forecasting a margin for the core UK of 10.1 per cent. In France, which accounts for about a tenth of sales, the margin is set to remain slightly lower.

Sixty stores across both countries will open this year and are planned to become profitable within their first year of trading. But until sales comparatives become less skewed, B&M cannot claim victory as a post-pandemic winner yet.

Bargain hunt



ADVICE Hold
WHY The shares deserve their lower valuation against history while the outlook for sales and margins remains shaky

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EMPIRIC STUDENT PROPERTY

Market cap £554m	Dividend yield 3%

How can a commercial landlord with a scattered portfolio of smaller properties possibly generate the economies of scale to deliver decent returns? It is a problem that Empiric Student Property is trying to solve, selling off buildings in cities where it has fewer beds to lease.

Non-core buildings accounted for only 5 per cent of the student accommodation provider's portfolio by value by the end of last year, from 10 per cent at the end of 2021. Since March 2021, £91.9 million has been raised from selling smaller assets.

Meanwhile, developments are being targeted in clusters within university cities in the hope of spreading maintenance and management personnel costs among accommodation buildings within a close proximity to each other. In Bristol, where it has built or acquired two new sites close to its existing two accommodation blocks, the operating margin rose from 69 per cent to 76 per cent. The internal rate of return of those two new developments was pushed above 20 per cent.

The landlord is lower in scale than Unite, its FTSE 100 peer, but higher in premium. Since the pandemic, it caters roughly 50-50 between international and UK students, as well as a higher proportion of postgraduates. Charging more for rents hasn't deterred students: bookings for the academic year starting September are at about nine weeks ahead of last year, with 86 per cent of beds secured. Like-for-like rental growth guidance was also raised this month to 7 per cent, from 6 per cent, in response to greater demand and cost inflation.

As for valuations, on a like-for-like basis these were 7.3 per cent higher last year, or 2.4 per cent net of capex. The net tangible value rose by 8 per cent to 115p a share, which makes the share price that remains at a 21 per cent discount to that figure more incongruous. It has also minimised the impact of rising costs on its debt, about a third of which was at a floating rate last summer. Now more than 90 per cent of its drawn debt of just under £400 million has been fixed. Empiric is back in the FTSE 250 and it should solidify its place.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Heavy discount to the shares is not justified by stable valuations and solid rental growth

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amazon UK taxes rise

Amazon paid £781 million in direct UK taxes last year compared to £648 million in 2021 as it continued its expansion across the country. The world's largest retailer, which employs 75,000 in Britain and runs more than 100 warehouses and offices, said that including indirect taxes such as VAT it paid more than £3.6 billion in total contributions last year, compared to £2.7 billion previously. It spent more than £1.6 billion on investments including fitting warehouses with robotics technology and opening a development centre in Swansea.

Cotton turns to gold

Cotton Traders, the heritage fashion brand founded in 1987 by Fran Cotton and Steve Smith, the former England rugby union team captains, has reported its most successful financial year to date with a 10.6 per cent rise in turnover to £111 million. Earnings before interest, taxes and other charges rose by 3 per cent to £12.6 million, with 79 per cent of total sales coming from direct channels and 21 per cent coming from its Cotton Traders store portfolio.

Solar farms sell-off

The administrators of Toucan Energy Holdings 1 Limited have launched a formal sales process for the company's portfolio of solar power farms. Toucan owns 53 solar parks with a combined capacity of 513 megawatts — comprising about 5 per cent of UK utility-scale capacity — in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Jim Tucker, at Interpath Advisory and joint administrator, said: "This is the largest portfolio of UK operating solar PV assets ever to come to market."

Own-brand sales soar

More shoppers are switching away from branded products and are opting for supermarkets' own-brand equivalents to save money at the till, research shows. Inflation and the rising cost of living are still at the front of consumers' minds, with the own-label share of volume sales rising to 63.3 per cent in fast-moving consumer goods over the past month. This is up 62.1 per cent on the same period last year, according to data from NIQ, a research company.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	32908.27 (-134.51)
Nasdaq Composite	12935.29 (-82.14)
S&P 500	4179.83 (-25.69)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	30887.88 (-440.28)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18234.27 (-361.51)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	748.86 (-7.81)
Sydney	
AO	7273.50 (-113.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15664.02 (-244.89)
Singapore	
Straits	3158.80 (-28.76)
Brussels	
BEL20	3536.79 (-46.11)
Paris	
CAC-40	7098.70 (-111.05)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11217.89 (-64.56)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4218.04 (-73.54)
London	
FTSE 100	7446.14 (-75.93)
FTSE 250	18722.90 (-84.47)
FTSE 350	4107.24 (-38.57)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3557.19 (-41.22)
FTSE All-Shares	4066.80 (-37.95)
FTSE Non Financials	4924.78 (-38.27)
techMARK 100	6774.51 (+13.17)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2435 (+0.0025)
Euro	1.1649 (+0.0085)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.46 (+0.48)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.43 Apr (2015 = 100)
RPI	372.80 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	96.590	96.960	96.390	96.820	4991	8406
	SEP 23	96.660	97.010	96.370	96.790	254751	492923
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.425	96.445	96.425	96.430	136358	539513
	Sep 23	96.180	96.245	96.180	96.210	206886	608491
	Dec 23	96.240	96.330	96.240	96.295	163441	415470
	Mar 24	96.430	96.530	96.430	96.500	148705	389177
	Jun 24	96.675	96.780	96.670	96.745	125026	318458
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7543.0	7545.0	7442.0	7452.0	146585	610585
	Sep 23	7521.0	7524.5	7455.0	7463.0	3096	3177
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5666.0		
	Sep 23				5708.5		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	72.40	-1.16
BFOE(Jul)	72.66	-0.88
BFOE(Aug)	72.63	-1.13
WTI(Jul)	68.09	-1.37
WTI(Aug)	68.24	-1.36

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	841.00	844.00	-12.00
Gasoil EEC	666.75	667.75	-9.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	394.00	397.00	-1.00
Naphtha	564.00	577.00	-12.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	666.00-665.75	Sep	661.25-661.00
Jul	659.75-659.25	Oct	664.00-663.50
Aug	659.00-658.50		Volume: 661102

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	72.84-72.79	Oct	72.97-72.94
Aug	73.38-73.37	Nov	72.69-72.65
Sep	73.24-73.23		Volume: 2126011

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2351-2348	Sep	2161-2158
Sep	2324-2310	Dec	2102-2142
Dec	2276-2274	Mar	2051-2090
Mar	2214-2213		
May	2210-2189		
Jul	2172-2161		Volume: 71064

RobustaCoffee

Jul	2554-2551	Mar	2404-2396
Sep	2517-2515	May	2396-2370
Nov	2471-2461		
Jan	2450-2402		Volume: 22353

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	661.00-659.00
		May	644.20-643.00
Aug	695.50-695.10	Aug	628.00-600.00
Oct	694.00-685.50	Oct	606.00-597.70
Dec	672.90-671.90		Volume: 66487

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	180.90	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	193.05	Volume: 985	

Pub operators defy Covid hangover and inflation



Jessica Newman ***Market report***

It was time for a top-up in shares in a couple of Britain's largest pubs groups after HSBC declared the sector had "defied our concerns". Having emerged from the wreckage of Covid-19 to be hit with raging inflation, the pubs business has dealt with its fair share of headaches, but recent upbeat trading at JD Wetherspoon and Mitchells & Butlers indicates to the bank that the industry "looks well set to grow profits", with further earnings upgrades in the offing.

JD Wetherspoon, known for its cheap beer and discounted food, expects sales for the year to be at record levels and profits to be near "the top of market expectations". With trading having turned a corner in the third quarter, analysts expect the group's full-year like-for-like sales to be about 7 per cent above pre-pandemic levels.

Encouraging news from Mitchells & Butlers, the All Bar One owner that reported an 8.5 per cent increase in sales during its first half, means HSBC reckons like-for-like sales for the full year will rise from 4.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Such bullishness prompted it to advise clients to buy both stocks, which apparently they did, lifting 'Spoon's shares 23p, or 3.2 per cent, to 733½p and M&B by 2¾p, or 1.4 per cent, to 204½p.

The pair outperformed the wider FTSE 250, which fell 84.47 points, or 0.5 per cent, to 18,722.90. A tier above, the more commodity-focused FTSE 100, weighed down by energy stocks, dropped 75.93 points, or 1 per cent, to a two-month low of 7,446.14.

Investors were unnerved by a slowdown in China's factory activity that in turn exacerbated fears of a weak recovery in the world's second largest economy. Weaker oil prices prompted by concerns over slower growth dragged on **BP** and **Shell**, which slid 13¼p, or 2.9 per cent, to 453¼p and by 61½p, or 2.7 per cent, to £22.20½, respectively. **Burberry**, the luxury goods retailer that counts China as its single biggest market, fell 54p, or 2.5 per cent, to £21.54.

Prudential, the Asia-focused insurer, lslid 69p, or 6.1 per cent, to £10.56 after it said its finance chief had resigned following an investigation into a "code of conduct issue relating to a recent recruitment situation". **Ocado** lingered near the bottom of the senior index again, closing down 23p, or 5.8 per cent, at 369p as analysts at Davy said the embattled online grocer would need to raise more cash for it to grow.

It was a far more upbeat session for **B&M European Value Retail**, which climbed 38p, or 8 per cent, to 510p after impressing the City with a profit upgrade. Other significant movers included **Darktrace**, which recovered 17¼p, or 6.5 per cent, to 282¾p as investors moved in on the recent share price weakness, and **Aston Martin Lagonda**, which revved up 24¾p, or 9.6 per cent, to a near-three-month high of 284p.

Investors gobbled up **DP Eurasia**, which runs the Domino's Pizza brand in Turkey, Russia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, after it unveiled a 19 per cent rise in first-quarter sales. Its shares finished the day 1¼p, or 2.6 per cent, higher at 50¼p.

Off the main market, shares in **Savannah Resources** jumped ¾p, or 19.7 per cent, to 4½p, their highest level in a year, after it said that the Portuguese environmental regulator had approved its environmental impact assessment for its Barroso lithium project. By contrast, **Impax Asset Management** settled at a six-month low as investors overlooked the Aim-listed sustainable investment house's rise in assets under management and looked at its tumbling profits. The shares closed 80p, or 10.1 per cent, lower at 709p.

Wall Street report

Stocks fell as a deal to raise the federal debt ceiling headed towards a crucial vote in Congress and amid worries of more rate rises. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 0.4 per cent, or 134.51 points, to 32,908.27, for a monthly drop of 3.5 per cent.

FTSE 100

British Land takes a step down

British Land has been demoted from the FTSE 100 after the commercial property market came under pressure from rising interest rates (Helen Cahill writes).

The company has lost the status it had held for more than 20 years after the economic downturn led its market capitalisation to decline by more than a third.

Asos has been relegated from the FTSE 250 as it continues to combat a drop in consumer demand. The fast-fashion firm recently revealed it had made a loss of more than £290 million.

IMI, an engineer based in Birmingham, has replaced British Land in the FTSE 100. It makes components for energy and transport businesses and its profits before tax increased by 13 per cent to £346 million last year. Capita has been added to the FTSE 250 even as it seeks to contain the fallout of a cyberattack on its systems.

Ocado had been tipped for relegation from the FTSE 100 after its market value more than halved, but the online grocer has retained its place despite reporting a £501 million loss for last year and having its shares heavily shorted by hedge funds betting on further declines in its share price.



British Land is behind the Paddington Central development in London



STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Drinks firm faces tequila racism claim

Sean Combs, the American rapper, actor, record producer who also has been known as Puff Daddy, P Diddy and Diddy, has accused Diageo of breaking the terms of their business partnership and of neglecting the tequila brand they had bought together, saying the company had done so because he is black.

The lawsuit comes after years of partnership between the spirits company that owns Johnnie Walker, Guinness and Tanqueray and Combs, 53, with their joint DeLeón tequila brand.

The court filing alleges that the London-listed Diageo has poured resources into two other tequilas, including Casamigos, a brand backed by George Clooney, the actor, that Diageo agreed to buy in 2017 for up to $1 billion. Combs said Diageo had limited the drink's distribution to "urban" neighbourhoods.

Diageo denied the allegations and said it would defend itself "vigorously".

"This is a business dispute and we are saddened that Mr Combs has chosen to recast this matter as anything other than that," a spokesman for the company said. "Our steadfast commitment to diversity within our company and the communities we serve is something we take very seriously."

Combs Wine & Spirits said there was a pattern of "racial typecasting", pointing to disputes that Diageo has had with other black business partners.

Shares in Diageo closed down 55½p, or 1.6 per cent, at £33.47 last night.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Aston Martin Lagonda Highest level since early March amid new investment	9.6%
B&M European Value Retail Lifts profit outlook	8.0%
Darktrace Investors move in on recent weakness	6.5%
Endeavour Mining Higher gold prices	6.0%
JD Wetherspoon HSBC upgrades to "buy"	3.2%
Burberry Fears over China exposure	-2.5%
BP Oil prices drop	-2.8%
Entain Faces "substantial" fine from HMRC's Turkey investigation	-4.0%
Prudential Chief financial officer resigns	-6.2%
Drax Ofgem opens investigation	-6.2%

Commodities

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	180.90	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	193.05	Volume: 985	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8015.0-8017.0	8047.0-8047.5	8105.0-8115.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2034.5-2035.5	2030.0-2032.0	2063.0-2068.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2227.0-2228.0	2248.0-2250.0	2283.0-2288.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2254.5-2255.0	2221.0-2221.5	2380.0-2385.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
20400.0-20450.0	20500.0-20540.0	21775.0-21825.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25325.0-25375.0	25200.0-25210.0	24430.0-24480.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Owing to a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Tuesday.

Bullion: Open $1958.60

Close $1965.91-1966.11 High $1973.57

Low $1953.75

AM $1949.50 **PM** $1952.45

Platinum $1092.00 (£881.45)

Silver $23.48 (£18.95)

Palladium $1721.11 (£1389.26)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.90	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.480; 3 mth 4.847. Sell: 1 mth 4.140; 3 mth 4.480

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7517	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.18-5.61	0.00-0.00	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6090-8.6665	8.6651-8.6663	130ds	412ds
Euro	1.1639-1.1564	1.1637-1.1637	10pr	32pr
Montreal	1.6821-1.6908	1.6850-1.6852	2ds	10ds
New York	1.2349-1.2424	1.2388-1.2389	9pr	21pr
Oslo	13.783-13.943	13.856-13.860	115ds	386ds
Stockholm	13.434-13.540	13.528-13.532	235ds	685ds
Tokyo	172.52-173.61	173.20-173.21	72ds	228ds
Zurich	1.1241-1.1333	1.1322-1.1323	33ds	101ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5474-1.5476
Canada	1.3602-1.3603
Denmark	6.9948-6.9953
Euro	0.9393-0.9394
Hong Kong	7.8302-7.8304
Japan	139.81-139.81
Malaysia	4.6120-4.6170
Norway	11.183-11.187
Singapore	1.3558-1.3559
Sweden	10.921-10.924
Switzerland	0.9140-0.9140

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	296.54-296.55
Australia dollar	1.9170-1.9172
Bahrain dinar	0.4634-0.4704
Brazil real	6.3255-6.3292
Euro	1.1636-1.1638
Hong Kong dollar	9.7000-9.7011
India rupee	102.46-102.46
Indonesia rupiah	18588-18595
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3800-0.3823
Malaysia ringgit	5.7229-5.7291
New Zealand dollar	2.0682-2.0687
Singapore dollar	1.6795-1.6798
S Africa rand	24.484-24.495
U A E dirham	4.5586-4.5590

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.915	+0.01
Canada $	1.685	
Denmark Kr	8.657	+0.04
Euro €	1.163	+0.01
Hong Kong $	9.702	-0.02
Hungary	431.047	+2.96
Indonesia	18578.653	-17.77
Israel Shk	4.629	+0.03
Japan Yen	173.163	-0.34
New Zealand $	2.068	+0.02
Norway Kr	13.811	-0.07
Poland	5.271	+0.02
Russia	100.671	-0.10
S Africa Rd	24.560	+0.10
Sweden Kr	13.489	
Switzerland Fr	1.133	+0.01
Turkey Lira	25.654	+0.34
USA $	1.239	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	284	+ 24¾	...	-1.7

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	198½	- 6⅛	...	4.3
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2325	- 11	...	11.8
66⅛	23½	ADVFN♦	23½	...	...	4.1
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	319⅛	...	...	29.9
27254¼	20146⅝	Aon Corpn	24855⅞	- 306⅛	...	60.6
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	937½	- 5	...	20.7
14	8½	Argo Group♦	9	+ ½	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	224½	- 2¾	...	7.6
1371	1107¾	Aus New Z	1196¾	- 25½	...	9.3
467⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	394⅛	- 10⅞	...	51.8
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	261½	- 11½	...	6.2
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3015	- 55	...	9.3
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	151¼	- 4⅜	...	3.6
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.6
346	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	334	...	...	9.2
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	12¼	+ ¾	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint	214⅜	- 4	...	13.4
65½	32½	Cenkos Secs♦‡	32½	- 1	...	6.6
325	262½	Chesnara	279½	- 1½	...	15.5
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	441	+ 9½	...	10.3
1148	858½	Close Bros	907½	- 3½	...	6.7
317	167	CMC Markets	178⅜	+ 1⅜	...	5.4
1038⅞	498½	Commerzbk	808½	- 18½	...	41.4
1073¼	660½	Deutsche Bk	815	- 14½	...	9.5
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	165⅞	- 3	...	6.8
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6½	...	Drumz♦	6½	+ ½	...	...
129⅝	60¾	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64⅞	- 7⅝	...	4.1
211	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	159	- 2½	...	8.9
1232⅞	821⅞	FBD	1113⅞	...	...	4.9
72½	66½	Fiske♦	66½	+ ½	...	11.8
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	70	...	...	40.7
849	548	Georgia Capital	820	- 5	...	2.2
910	682	Gresham House♦	750	...	...	30.1
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	412	...	...	13.2
55½	33	Hansard Global	51⅞	...	...	17.9
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	802⅛	- 12⅜	...	14.3
172½	143⅜	Helios Under♦	170	...	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	590½	- 9½	...	12.9
847½	648	IG Group	672	- 12	...	6.8
883	500	Impax♦	709	- 80	...	23.4
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1392	- 9	...	7.9
114	64⅜	IPF	111	- 1½	...	6.2
170	136	International Public P'ship‡	139	- ½	...	17.8
546⅜	351½	Investec	409	+ 2⅞	...	10.2
330	253	Investment Co	330	...	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group‡	56½	- 1¼	...	2.1
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	152½	...	...	10.9
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	109½	+ 2¾	...	4.0
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	84¼	- 3¼	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	619½	- 2½	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	228	- 2⅛	...	7.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	- 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	754½	+ 4½	...	9.4
55¼	37½	Livermore Invs♦	38	+ ½	...	2.4
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Gp**	44⅛	- 1	...	6.1
33½	22	LMS Capital‡	22⅜	- 1⅞	...	9.7
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8550	+ 70	...	87.4
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	198⅛	...	...	61.9
286¾	204¼	Man	219½	- 3½	...	8.8
29	8	Manx Fin♦	23½	...	...	11.9
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	...	0.7
14722	11702	Marsh McLn	13882⅜	- 182¼	...	28.9
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	630	- 5	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	100½	- 1½	...	-0.7
1727¾	1356	Nat Aust Bk	1356	- 28⅝	...	13.4
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	259½	- 5⅝	...	10.2
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	333½	- ½	...	6.7
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	494	- 4¾	...	6.5
652	386	PayPoint	386	- 7½	...	12.1
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	552⅜	- 9½	...	-6.3
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1056	- 69	...	17.1
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅞	...	...	...
122⅞	80¼	Quilter	84	+ ⅞	...	60.0
109¾	51	Randall & Quilter♦	51	...	...	76.0
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1994	+ 28	...	15.4
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
2540	1905	S & U	2500	- 20	...	11.8
2	⅝	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	42¾	- ¾	...	4.5
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	455½	- 4½	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1115	- 13	...	21.2
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	633½	- 9½	...	14.2
12	7	Starvest♦	7	+ ½	...	-1.1
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4099¼	3210½	Sun Life Can	3896¾	- 7	...	9.9
10	5¾	Tavistock Inv♦	7½	...	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2300	- 55	...	6.7
16¾	3¾	Tern♦	4	- ¼	...	3.0
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	28½	...	...	17.3
1245	900	Volvere♦	1135	- 65	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	22	...	...	12.3
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3932	2937¼	Wells Fargo	3179¾	- 126⅝	...	8.7
1292⅞	1012⅝	Westpac	1079¾	- 22⅜	...	14.6
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29⅛	...	...	91.2
41017⅞	34890¾	Zurich Fincl	37599¼	- 114⅝	...	14.6

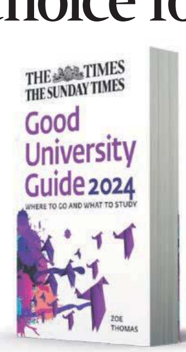
Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1992½	1042	**3i Group**	1955½	- 3½	...	11.8
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	315½	+ 1½	...	-7.0
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	86¾	- ¼	...	-25.3
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1244	- 6	...	-13.5
1046	876	Alliance	990	- 12	...	-6.0
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	374	- 4	...	-13.9
230	171½	Athelney Trust	190	+ 5	...	-13.4
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	188⅜	- 1⅜	...	-10.5
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	213½	...	...	-14.7
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	92	- ⅞	...	-14.8
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	726	- 5	...	-10.4
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	139⅛	- 1⅜	...	-11.4
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	164⅛	+ ⅛	...	-14.7
109	90⅞	Bankers	97½	- ¼	...	-11.6
5232	380	BH Macro	408	- 1	...	3.5
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	826	+ 4	...	-8.4
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	111½	- 4⅜	...	-6.7
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	135¼	- 1¾	...	-8.9
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	535	- 7	...	-5.2
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	189	- 2	...	-8.1
442⅜	330	BlckRck Latin Am	371	- 7	...	-13.6
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	181½	- ½	...	-6.0
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1304	- 4	...	-12.2
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	587	+ 1	...	-5.6
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	586	- 8	...	0.6
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	292	- 7½	...	-3.4
121	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	79⅞	- 1⅞	...	-31.0
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	140½	- 1⅜	...	-13.4
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	466	- 7	...	-32.3
93¾	60	CT Real Estate	83	+ 4½	...	-19.3
90	71	CT UK HIT	82½	...	...	-7.3
93	79	CT UK HIT B	90½	...	...	1.6
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	329	...	...	-7.6
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1170	- 15	...	-13.9
1115	888	Brunner	1032½	- 20	...	-12.2
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3360	- 40	...	-32.8
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	...	...	1.5
432	366½	City of Lon IT	400	- 3½	...	2.2
121	75	Crystal Amber Fd	81	...	...	-31.8
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.3
690	537	Edinburgh IT	650	- 6	...	-7.4
214	144½	Edin Wwide	144½	- 3⅜	...	-17.5
336	268	EP Global Opp	320	- 4	...	-10.0
105	74½	European Assets	89	- ¼	...	-8.8
796	608	European Opp Tr	781	+ 1	...	-11.5
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	886	- 8	...	-5.8
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	506	- 4	...	-2.5
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	207½	- ½	...	-11.6
362	244½	Fidlty Euro Val	345	- 6½	...	-4.6
185	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	175½	- 2½	...	-8.5
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	269½	- 2½	...	-6.9
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	879	- 7	...	-3.4
118¾	81	GCP Infrastructure	83⅞	+ 1¼	...	-25.9
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	580	- ⅜	...	-14.7
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31	...	...	-15.1
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	149	+ ⅞	...	-10.4
194⅝	161	Hansa Investment	167	+ 1	...	-45.2
196	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	168	+ 5	...	-46.2
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2150	- 25	...	-43.5
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	154	- 1	...	-11.7
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	167	- 3	...	1.1
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	785	- 7	...	-13.0
1966	1540	Herald	1800	+ 10	...	-14.9
418	310	HgCapital Trust	401½	+ 1½	...	-14.3
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	143¾	- ⅜	...	-12.1
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1150	- 6	...	-39.3
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	405	- 2½	...	-4.8
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	318	- 7	...	-11.0
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	...	...	1.5
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-12.3
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-14.0
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
179	141	IPST UK Eq	159½	- 3	...	-11.5
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	427	- 2	...	-9.6
800	650	JPM American	727	- 9	...	-3.7
402	222	JPM Asia	344	- 6½	...	-8.9
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	251½	- 7½	...	-10.9
726	624	JPM Claverhs	644	- 10	...	-5.0
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	102½	- 1⅜	...	-10.3
449	339	JPM Euro disc	396	- 5	...	-14.0
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	126	- 2½	...	-9.0
481	386	JPM GG&I	456½	- 4	...	0.8
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	824	...	...	-18.0
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	310	- 3	...	-10.7
510	408½	JPM Japan#	475½	- 5	...	-8.5
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	880	- 10	...	-13.8
104	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	91¼	...	...	-5.1
-1.501	134¾	"JPM Em E	GBX	+ 111⅞	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	268	+ ½	...	-13.6
244½	174	Keystone IT	206	- 4	...	-16.3
871	649	Law Debenture	789	- 11	...	1.6
135	99	Lowland	119	- 1	...	-9.5
223	156¾	Majedie	192	- 7½	...	-17.1
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	343	- 8	...	0.3
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96	...	...	-42.5
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	199	...	...	-14.3
606	480	Merchants	544	- 6	...	0.7
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	692	- 7	...	-2.3
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	973	- 12	...	-10.9
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	137⅛	- 1½	...	-12.7
891	715	Murray Income Trust	842	- 6	...	-7.0
275¾	225½	Murray Int	261⅛	- 1⅜	...	0.6
85	70½	Nb Global Floating	73¼	...	...	-6.5
384	258	Pacific Assets	365	- 6	...	-5.7
300¼	229⅛	Pantheon Int	272	+ ½	...	-40.5
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2748	- 12	...	-37.1
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	471½	...	...	-1.0
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2210	- 15	...	-12.8
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	142	...	...	-13.1
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	120	+ ½	...	-10.9
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1846	- 6	...	-21.7
750	530⅜	Riverstone	568	- 1	...	-48.1
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	406½	- 5½	...	-5.0
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	486	- 4½	...	-11.9
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	296	...	...	-1.5
224	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	219	- 2	...	-9.2
626	454	Schrod UKMid	530	- 6	...	-14.3
23⅞	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14	- ⅜	...	-47.1
543	434	Scot American	521	- 4	...	0.5
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	665¾	- 7⅜	...	-18.8
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	212	- 5	...	-0.4
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	80½	+ ½	...	-12.9
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	221½	- 4½	...	-5.5
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	145½	- ¾	...	-14.7
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	280	- 2½	...	-7.2
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	69¾	- 1½	...	-0.5
230	122	Utilico Ord	143½	...	...	-26.8
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	219	- 1	...	-15.2
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	551	+ 3	...	-17.8
237½	199¾	Witan	226	- 2½	...	-7.8
3500	2820	Ww Health	3185	- 5	...	-9.5

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Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	167½	...	...	8.5
11¼	8⅞	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	47⅞	+ ⅛	...	9.5
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	247⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	367⅛	- 2½	...	17.4
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	462¾	- 10⅛	...	7.2
2500	1586½	Bellway‡	2260	- 16	...	6.7
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	3926	- 57	...	10.2
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1150	+ 18	...	7.5
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	405	...	...	32.9
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	234	- 4	...	12.5
536	324¾	**Br Land**	343	- ⅜	...	46.9
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	59	+ ⅛	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop‡	2430	+ 60	...	26.4
25	2½	Carecapital♦	6¼	- ¾	...	-0.7
170	106	Clarke T‡	150	...	...	10.7
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅜	6	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	3806	- 67	...	15.8
3022	1876	Derwent London‡	2148	- 6	...	9.5
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	4	+ ⅛	...	-2.7
31½	22	First Prop♦	27½	...	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37¼	...	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	180⅛	+ 3⅛	...	40.0
470	252½	Genuit Group	317½	+ 2½	...	19.2
574	335	Gleeson (MJ)	423	- 2	...	6.6
988⅝	630½	Grafton	815¾	- 9¾	...	9.4
312¾	205⅜	Grainger‡	248⅜	+ 1⅛	...	15.4
658½	409⅛	Great Portland	483⅜	- 9	...	-6.0
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	24¾	- ½	...	-2.6
171	101	Harworth Gp	118½	- 4	...	4.1
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
431½	243½	Helical PLC	243½	- 15	...	5.8
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	160	- 2½	...	20.7
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	214	...	...	22.7
849	591	Keller	679	- 25	...	7.8
6786	3903½	Kingspan Group	5419	+ 25¾	...	21.3
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	602	- 3⅜	...	...
100¼	58	Life Science Reit	75⅜	+ 1⅛	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	12	...	...	-1.6
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property	180	+ 5⅜	...	3.8
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	60¼	+ ½	...	-7.8
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	303	+ 3⅛	...	11.0
114½	74	Michelmersh♦	92	- ½	...	14.6
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1820	- 10	...	8.9
13900	10800	Mountview	10950	- 150	...	13.6
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	82¼	- 1	...	-2.8
291	195	Palace Capital	234	+ 1	...	11.2
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	...	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1201½	- 14	...	4.8
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.4
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties	99⅝	+ ¼	...	10.1
38½	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	29¾	- ¼	...	3.8
585	372½	Redrow	482⅜	- 8½	...	5.9
1177	794	Safestore	934½	+ 7	...	5.3
1190	763½	Savills	910	+ 2½	...	9.1
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	797½	- ⅜	...	2.3
44⅜	27¾	SIG	39⅞	- 1¼	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	59⅛	+ 1	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	82	+ 2¼	...	6.3
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	36	...	...	8.2
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	114⅛	- 1⅜	...	7.5
178½	129	Town Centre‡	134	- 4½	...	5.3
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	873⅛	- 28¾	...	8.5
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	140	+ 1	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox‡	59⅞	...	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman	268	- 5½	...	10.5
1207	791½	**Unite**	895	+ 1½	...	10.4
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	723	- 20½	...	6.3
165	91	Warehouse REIT	101	- ½	...	2.3
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	503	- 1	...	-7.4
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	675	+ 10	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	32	- ½	...	11.8
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	858	+ 13	...	7.8
306	147½	Animalcare♦	181½	+ 4½	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1825½	- 5	...	30.1
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	90	- 2⅛	...	9.3
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	505	- 3	...	17.9
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.5
67	24½	Brand Architekts♦	33½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2554½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2554½	- 43	...	8.6
936	707½	Britvic‡	884	- 1	...	20.0
2641	1580	**Burberry**	2154	- 54	...	18.5
207	131	C&C Grp	145⅜	+ 2⅜	...	-8.6
6⅜	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	2¼	...	...	-0.6
145¼	92	Carr's Grp‡	145¼	+ ½	...	17.9
535	296	Character Grp♦	302	- 2	...	5.3
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1375	...	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**‡	2388	+ 4	...	19.0
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3250	+ 24	...	17.1
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3347	**Diageo**	3347	- 55½	...	25.7
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	⅜	...	...	11.8
1000	774	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	774	- 12	...	6.6
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	92	- 1	...	10.9
9920	5690	Games Workshop	9460	+ 50	...	26.0
1229⅞	844¼	Glanbia	1147⅜	- 24	...	28.3
114½	60¾	Greencore	80⅛	+ 1	...	16.0
348	231	Headlam‡	241	+ 3	...	10.3
1132	500	Hilton Food	729	- 1	...	15.2
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1695	**Imperial Brands**‡	1695	- 3½	...	5.6
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅜	...	...	8.0
9458⅞	7255¾	Kerry Gp	7814⅝	- 292⅜	...	21.6
35	15½	McBride	29⅝	- ¾	...	-5.2
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	255	...	...	10.5
1332½	980	Nichols♦	980	+ 5	...	...
249	165	Norcros	171½	- ¾	...	5.4
380½	296	Origin Ents♦	313⅞	- 8½	...	9.9
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦	418	- 7	...	17.7
⅞	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	184	- 4	...	21.2
161	89¼	REA	89¼	+ 1½	...	-7.0
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
340	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	695	- 6	...	27.9
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2	- ¼	...	-1.3
5051	4092½	Unilever (NV)	4679½	- ½	...	24.0
4443½	3475½	**Unilever**‡	4029	- 16	...	20.6
596	317	Victoria♦	530	+ 28	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	739	Avon Rubber	900	+ 42	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	308⅛	- 2⅛	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	928⅛	- 14⅛	...	16.9
2150	1300	Braime A N/V♦	1300	+ 50	...	14.6
1750	1500	Braime Group♦	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1¼	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.7
380	279	Castings	378	- 2	...	18.2
5	3	Chamberlin♦	3	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	24½	...	...	-2.9
560	391	Cohort♦	490	- ½	...	43.5
400	190	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
340	192¼	Dialight	230	...	...	...
1301½	859½	Electrolux 'B'	1059¼	- 43	...	8.0
182½	85½	Feedback♦	115	- 2½	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	560	+ 10	...	41.4
4540	2400	Goodwin	4540	+ 140	...	25.0
2498	1876½	**Halma**	2409	+ 6	...	34.8
1456	893	Hill & Smith	1456	- 18	...	34.2
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1594	- 20	...	21.7
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9740	+ 300	...	49.1
87	72½	LPA♦	87	...	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	471½	- 6⅛	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	290	...	...	12.2
433	227½	Mpac♦	247½	- 10	...	6.5
745	260	MS Intl♦	502	+ 22	...	71.7
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2765	+ 45	...	37.7
2116⅛	1055⅜	Philips El nv	1517¾	- 54½	...	26.9
17½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	40	- 1½	...	-3.3
4338	3342	Renishaw	4046	+ 142	...	23.0
31	20½	Renold♦	27½	- ½	...	9.8
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	143¼	- 1	...	97.4
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork	321	+ 1¾	...	34.8
200	130	SDI Group♦	130	- 4	...	21.4
181⅛	111	Senior	167⅜	- 5	...	29.2
66	48	Severfield	62⅛	- 1½	...	11.1
15½	6⅞	Six Hundred♦	6⅞	...	...	40.2
1618⅜	1089¾	SKF B	1274¼	- 41½	...	9.4
300	215	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1606	- 23	...	25.5
1435	986	Solid State♦	1110	...	...	26.7
470	324	Somero Enter♦	324	- 8½	...	7.1
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3680	- 18	...	12.1
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	10925	- 145	...	34.4
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	35½	- ½	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3¼	...	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	366	...	...	25.4
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86½	+ ½	...	63.6
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	413⅛	+ ⅜	...	11.0
1530	677	Videndum	677	+ 15	...	12.4
323½	202	Volex♦	263	- 11½	...	14.3
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1694½	- 31½	...	28.6
3290	1464	XP Power	2085	- 20	...	11.1
160	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	224	+ 1	...	35.2
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
150	16½	Angle♦	18¼	...	...	-2.4
603	178½	Anpario♦	178½	...	...	9.3
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	11660	+ 162	...	...
36	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**	202¾	- 3⅛	...	47.3
58⅜	25⅜	Creighton	35	...	...	6.7
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3340	- 12	...	49.8
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1¼	...	...	-7.6
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	16¾	- ¾	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	112½	- 1	...	13.6
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	28	- ⅛	...	7.9
56⅞	28⅛	Futura Medical♦	42	+ ½	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2528	+ 32	...	44.9
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1346⅜	- 24½	...	15.5
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	318⅛	- 3½	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1791½	- 6½	...	13.4
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	193⅛	- 4¾	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3	...	...	-0.9
7025	1365	Indivior	1455	- 6	...	83.3
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	45	...	...	6.9
41½	17½	IXICO♦	20	+ ½	...	6.4
501½	378⅜	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1⅝	...	...	-2.0
8394⅜	6627	Novartis	7692¾	+12¼	...	9.8
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	7¼	-¼	...	-2.0
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	448½	+6½	...	20.1
5	2	Physiomics♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.2
5¼	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4⅝	-⅛	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**	6246	-44	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	...	...	-3.9
223	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	115	...	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1202	-13	...	27.2
250	203	Spire Hcare‡	223	-3	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	8⅞	...	...	-0.3
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	51	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	19½	-¼	...	30.9
420	295	Tristel♦	357½	+4½	...	73.7
25¾	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¼	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
128¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	70½	-2⅜	...	...
4700¼	3379⅛	BASF	3820⅜	-134½	...	7.5
5804⅞	4124	Bayer DM50	4484⅞	-110	...	52.3
195	46½	Biome Tech♦	117½	+7½	...	-3.9
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	2	+⅛	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	69⅜	+1⅛	...	15.4
7482	5908	**Croda**	6100	-8	...	26.5
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	880	...	...	26.8
129	87⅝	Elementis	107⅛	-1⅜	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12½	...	...	-2.4
2373	1730	**Johnson Math**	1730	-11½	...	21.8
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1245	-31½	...	9.5
100	77½	Robinson♦	95	+1½	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	303⅝	-5¼	...	17.2
747	447	Swire Pacific	539	-6⅝	...	...
19	6¾	Symph Environ♦	7⅛	-⅛	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	89¾	-1⅞	...	1.8
2684½	2050	Takeda Pharm	2553	-69⅞	...	14.3
7	2¼	Velocys♦	2⅜	...	...	-3.0
1931	1504	Victrex‡	1549	+2	...	18.4
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	435	+5	...	9.9
410	233	Zotefoams‡	350	-15	...	21.0

Leisure

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	69¾	+¾	...	5.1
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	726	+11	...	19.1
680	370	Best of the Best♦	565	...	...	6.3
1011½	501⅜	Carnival	783½	-12¾	...	-1.2
130½	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	⅞	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	279⅛	-3¾	...	14.2
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1319	-55½	...	29.5
16725	7614	**Flutter Ent**	15735	-35	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	30½	+⅜	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	135	+25	...	8.1
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5268	-46	...	49.3
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.5
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	204½	+2¾	...	...
218	92½	On The Beach	98¼	-3¼	...	-5.1
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1085	+5	...	-8.8
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	96⅞	...	...	13.0
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	45	-⅞	...	-8.4
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18½	-⅜	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	269⅛	+4¾	...	-5.2
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.0
295	65	Tintra♦	92½	-7½	...	-1.6
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	509½	-9½	...	-5.3
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	733½	+23	...	-6.8
3330	2285	**Whitbread**‡	3286	-21	...	...
1308	870	Young & Co - A♦	1180	-5	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	806	-1	...	...

Media

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	78½	...	...	21.7
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	40	...	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	224½	-2¾	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	630	+8½	...	31.0
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	410	-½	...	16.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5½	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	137½	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	-2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
64	43	Ebiquity♦	46½	-1½	...	...
1466	1030	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
2006	722	Future	722	-30½	...	12.4
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1340	...	...	66.3
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	142½	+3	...	20.8
729	501¾	**Informa**	697	-6¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	69¾	-1¼	...	7.5
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
8⅝	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2¾	+½	...	-0.5
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.5
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	43	...	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50	...	...	8.4
280⅜	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	251⅛	-⅛	...	25.6
1740⅝	1212	News Corp A	1466⅜	-48¾	...	23.9
1756¾	1237⅞	News Corp B	1476½	-50	...	24.0
1146	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	798⅛	-8¾	...	38.1
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2¾	...	...	5.1
187½	108½	Quarto	172	...	...	9.5
124	67	Reach‡	72⅜	-1⅛	...	80.4
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1¼	-⅛	...	18.2
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2510	+25	...	33.1
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**	523½	-1⅛	...	29.6
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	85	-5	...	...
315	245	STV Group	255	+7½	...	6.2
310	122½	System1 Group♦	180	...	...	8.6
3009⅜	2283¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2500⅜	-39½	...	13.7
2785⅝	2154	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2335⅜	-27¾	...	12.8
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.6
356	222	Wilmington	278	-8	...	17.7
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	853¾	-23¾	...	16.2
116½	77½	Zinc Media♦	104½	-3	...	-6.6

Natural resources

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	15¼	AFC Energy♦	15¼	-1½	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	⅛	...	...	-2.8
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
90⅛	64	Alumina	75⅝	+2	...	15.7
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.1
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¾	...	...	...
718509¾	4624¼	Anglo Amer Plat	4624¼	+161¾	...	3.3
4017½	2223½	**Anglo American**	2223½	-41½	...	4.4
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	105	-½	...	9.1
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1337½	-25½	...	13.8
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3¼	-⅛	...	2.4
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.3
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.3
3¼	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	306	-15	...	3.8
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1¾	Beowulf Mining♦	1¾	...	...	-7.6
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2210½	-38½	...	9.6
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅝	+⅜	...	...
21¼	13⅝	Bougainville	19¼	...	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	453¼	-13¼	...	16.4
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	8¾	-⅜	...	0.8
2⅝	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	...	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1015	-25	...	9.9
555¼	192⅜	Capricorn Energy	195½	-2⅜	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6¼	...	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	100½	+¼	...	15.5
292½	185½	Cent Asia Metals♦	185½	-4¾	...	5.4
15¼	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	11⅛	-¼	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15⅜	-⅞	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
⅜	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.0
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	27½	+¾	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10134⅞	90⅛	DRD Gold	90⅛	+2⅜	...	10.6
1¼	¼	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	...	...	-2.5
19	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	5½	...	...	-0.3
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	¾	...	...	-5.7
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2152	+118	...	32.0
32⅝	14⅝	EnQuest	14⅝	-⅛	...	0.9
8	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2¾	...	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	...	...	11.5
193⅛	92⅛	Ferrexpo	92⅛	-2	...	0.7
968	644	**Fresnillo**	648	-½	...	15.3
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	17½	Galantas Gold♦	17½	...	...	-2.9
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
58½	22⅜	Gem Diamonds	22⅜	-1¼	...	2.3
28¾	12⅛	Getech♦	13¼	...	...	-3.1
578	400	**Glencore**‡	411⅜	-5¼	...	15.0
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.0
133233⅞	1227½	Gold Fields	1227½	+46¾	...	18.8
12½	7½	Goldplat♦	7⅝	...	...	5.8
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	2⅝	-¼	...	...
13¼	6½	Greatld Gld♦	8	+½	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	86¼	...	...	9.5
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	131½	+1	...	8.2
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13¾	...	...	1.1
115¼	51½	Hochschild	75⅞	+3⅛	...	7.3
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	135	+1	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	219	-9½	...	-5.5
106½	14⅜	IGas Energy♦	14⅜	-⅜	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.2
313½	68¾	ITM Power♦	69⅛	+2⅛	...	...
15¼	7	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.9
2¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-2.6
495	380½	Kenmare Res	446½	+16½	...	5.2
27½	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	10¾	Landore Res♦	10¾	-⅛	...	-2.4
½	⅛	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	...	...	-4.0
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¾	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8	...	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	8¾	-½	...	-1.8
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1⅝	...	...	2.8
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4	Orosur Mining♦	4	...	...	-6.1
21⅛	12¾	Pan African Res♦	13⅝	+⅜	...	4.4
140¼	15⅝	Pantheon Res♦	15⅝	-2½	...	...
79	20¼	Parkmead Grp♦	21½	-¾	...	-1.8
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.5
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	65½	+¼	...	2.1
2¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.6
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	4⅞	...	...	...
150⅜	46	Petrofac	70⅝	+⅛	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	185	-5	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	644	+2	...	24.7
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	8¼	-½	...	...
14⅝	8⅜	Proton Motor Power S♦	8⅜	-1¼	...	-1.5
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	-⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
6777¾	4632½	Rio Tinto Ltd	5586⅞	-120	...	5.8
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4782	-57½	...	5.0
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	29	+¾	...	10.8
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	27¼	...	...	3.7
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	217½	+3½	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11⅜	...	...	7.1
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2220½	-61½	...	11.7
2½	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	10.9
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	...	...	...	-3.2
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5323	3891⅜	Total Eng SE	4564⅞	-146⅛	...	10.4
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.8
57⅛	22½	Tullow Oil	24¾	-¼	...	2.4
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.0
416	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
⅞	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	140½	+¼	...	-5.7
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	⅜	...	...	1.8
5¼	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1½	...	...	-2.7
7¼	3¾	Zephyr Energy♦	3¾	...	...	-4.8

Professional & support services

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4605	+120	...	77.7
582½	460	Andrews Sykes♦‡	582½	+2½	...	18.6
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4900	-38	...	23.8
17½	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
120	51½	AssetCo♦	51½	-½	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	123½	+½	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	161	-2½	...	57.7
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3144	-14	...	23.8
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	33⅜	+½	...	2.5
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	121	-1½	...	51.4
2235	1641	**Compass**	2202	-4	...	53.5
252	97	CPPGroup♦	191½	...	...	...
75	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
5656	4030	**DCC**‡	4597	-69	...	15.1
104	38¾	De La Rue	38¾	-¼	...	5.1
3084	2158	Diploma‡	3032	+24	...	54.2
914	597	Discoverie	790	+2	...	64.7
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	182¾	-1½	...	20.5
3160	2285	**Experian**	2832	+8	...	36.3
12380	8680	Ferguson	11675	-275	...	17.2
274	215	FIH Group♦	274	...	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10½	+½	...	-7.7
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	394	+8	...	4.1
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	710	-2½	...	38.8
19⅜	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4743	3619	**Intertek**‡	4154	-41	...	23.3
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	145⅜	+⅞	...	-5.5
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	108⅛	-¾	...	67.6
181½	106	Journeo♦	163	-2	...	36.5
81⅞	56½	Kier Gp	77½	-2⅜	...	7.5
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1250	+20	...	6.8
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	900	-2	...	27.2
3750	2300	Lon Security♦	2900	+150	...	16.0
366	220	LSL Prop Services‡	265	+9	...	7.3
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	110	+2	...	12.7
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	140	+5	...	4.3
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	19½	...	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	241	...	...	20.9
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	-1	...	48.0
94⅞	55	Mitie Gp	88⅞	...	...	44.4
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5	...	...	3.7
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	6¼	-¼	...	...
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	49½	...	...	5.0
286	217	NWF Grp♦	259½	...	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	435	-5½	...	11.7
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	56½	...	...	...
12	6⅞	Petards♦	7½	+⅜	...	13.6
26½	13	PHSC♦	13½	-½	...	24.5
2¼	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	86	+1¾	...	23.6
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	373½	-1	...	9.3
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	715	-18	...	17.6
851	489	Renewi	534	-4	...	11.3
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	638½	+5⅜	...	45.2
466	247	Restore♦	247	-3	...	29.4
600	338½	Ricardo	560	-6	...	50.0
600	408	Robert Walters	433	+1	...	9.9
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	+1	...	2.3
239	96¾	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1159	788¾	**RS Group**	796½	-3⅛	...	20.2
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅜	229	RWS Hldgs♦	229	-5⅜	...	21.0
440	365	Science Group♦‡	405	...	...	18.6
188¼	142⅞	Serco‡	142⅞	-1	...	5.8
57½	27½	Smiths News	53	...	...	5.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2854	-66	...	13.0
50	32½	Staffline Gp♦	34⅞	-1	...	26.8
484½	317½	SThree‡	373	-2	...	12.0
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
29⅜	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25	...	...	-9.0
94	35	Tribal♦	38⅞	...	...	12.1
86	49	Vianet♦	75	-1½	...	...
950	615	Vp	642½	+12½	...	15.8
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	119⅞	+1	...	35.2

Retailing

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	64¾	+⅞	...	...
509¾	295½	**B&M European**	509¾	+37⅞	...	11.8
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	28	...	...	8.2
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	87	-3⅝	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2092	-16	...	58.6
194	104¾	DFS Furn	116	-1	...	6.1
1275	670½	Dunelm	1090	-22	...	14.6
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	672½	-17½	...	29.8
2904	1673	Greggs	2686	+18	...	23.5
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	202½	-⅛	...	6.7
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery	656	-11⅜	...	12.3
941	666	Inchcape‡	762	-10	...	25.7
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2½	...	...	-7.2
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	152	-1⅜	...	18.3
291½	203	**Kingfisher**‡	231	-3	...	5.8
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	80⅞	-⅜	...	5.2
184¾	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	178½	-2½	...	...
11⅛	5¾	Mothercare♦	5⅞	...	...	-3.7
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	109½	+2½	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6346	-34	...	12.1
952½	369	**Ocado**	369	-22⅞	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17¼	-⅜	...	5.4
395	257¾	Pets at Home	375	-1⅜	...	15.3
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	111½	-2¾	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	270½	-⅞	...	22.7
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1570	+42	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	24	+1	...	...
1½	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	260¾	-1⅜	...	13.2
53	38	Topps Tiles	52	-1½	...	9.4

Technology

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	76½	...	...	...
136½	17½	Aferian plc♦	17½	+¼	...	3.1
185	126	Alfa Financial‡	161½	+1	...	25.2
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software‡	343	+13	...	38.5
265	126½	Bango♦	208½	-5½	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	23¾	-⅛	...	9.9
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	23½	-1	...	...
21½	6	Blackbird♦	6¼	+¼	...	-9.9
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2320	-22	...	14.4
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	65½	-½	...	15.5
12¼	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1415	+95	...	64.5
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅝	...	...	18.0
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	15¾	-⅜	...	...
276½	177½	D4t4 Solutions♦	177½	-4	...	21.0
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
976	599	FDM Group	671	-3	...	23.3
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	13	...	...	35.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1820	+16	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	296½	+1½	...	22.6
180½	136	GreshamTech	144	-9	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	44	-1½	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	104½	...	...	61.1
77	38	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
200	112	Iomart♦	154⅛	-½	...	16.9
59⅞	20¾	IQE♦	22⅛	-⅝	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	126	+4½	...	-2.1
1686¼	1053⅞	LG Electronics	1613⅝	+161¼	...	4.2
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-3.0
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	48	-1½	...	15.9
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18⅛	+⅛	...	...
114½	62½	Netcall♦	114½	-2	...	...
51½	35	Northamber♦	38	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	13¼	-¼	...	-6.9
112½	78½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-7.0
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	37	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	601	-1½	...	6.3
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	359⅜	-½	...	28.0
146	20½	RM	91¼	+3	...	18.2
871	595½	**Sage**	871	+14⅛	...	33.4
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	60½	...	...	37.4
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	...	...	-4.5
1441	1071	Softcat	1365	+14	...	26.7
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	179½	...	...	16.7
59½	24¾	SRT Marine♦	59½	-½	...	...
610	400¾	Tele. Ericsson	416	-6	...	7.5
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	905	-30	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	15	-1	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	160	+5	...	17.5
1380	250	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	422½	-22½	...	23.2
236	144½	Xaar	176½	...	...	...
7¾	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	124	-7½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	119⅛	-⅛	...	10.6
196½	112	**BT Group**	146¾	+⅞	...	14.2
87⅝	50⅜	Currys plc	50⅜	-½	...	2.3
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1152	-2	...	20.8
144¼	90⅛	Helios Towers	90⅛	+⅛	...	-8.1
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1209	-83	...	-2.6
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.4
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅝	...	...	-9.7
2500	1520	Telecom Plus	1520	-20	...	38.9
131⅜	76¼	**Vodafone**	76¼	-1⅜	...	...

Transport

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	285½	+½	...	9.4
535⅛	285	EasyJet	471¼	-6⅛	...	-2.9
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5	...	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	114¾	-⅝	...	27.3
407	251	Fisher (James)	367	-1	...	-6.6
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	154⅜	-2½	...	-3.4
328⅞	183⅛	IDS	196¾	-2¼	...	2.2
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1196	-6	...	-6.4
272½	106⅝	Natl Express	106⅝	+1	...	-6.3
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	832	+2	...	4.2
105	104¼	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	20½	...	...	...
404½	192⅜	Wincanton	247½	+4	...	6.7
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2776	-76	...	-6.3

Utilities

12 month High	12 month Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119¾	67¼	**Centrica**	117⅝	-2¼	...	11.8
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
793	473⅜	Drax Group	553⅜	-36⅜	...	40.9
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1186½	858⅜	**National Grid**	1106	+6	...	25.7
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8¾	+¼	...	5.6
1070	755	Pennon	773½	-6	...	56.0
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3003	2213	**Severn Trent**	2773	+16	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**	1881½	+23	...	7.3
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1012½	+2	...	92.8

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Register

Obituaries

Robin Page

Countryman and author who farmed in Cambridgeshire, presented One Man and His Dog, and marched to the beat of his own drum

RICK WILSON /REX



Page on his farm with his lurcher, Bramble, in 1999

Robin Page's view that country people constitute "the most endangered minority in multicultural Britain" was not a popular one and found little favour with policymakers or planners.

Yet with statistics showing that 84 per cent of the UK's population now dwells in towns or cities, he had a point — and it was one he made stridently and with outspoken vigour.

As a writer, broadcaster, newspaper columnist and political agitator, he spent his life campaigning for the preservation of the rural environment, the wildlife that depends on it and the interests of those who live and work in it.

He had no time for those who pontificate from their offices and armchairs, and lived and breathed the lifestyle he championed, milking, shearing and mucking out in the traditional way on his smallholding in the same Cambridgeshire village in which he was born.

In 1993 he founded the Countryside Restoration Trust with the artist Gordon Beningfield and with the conservationist Sir Laurens van der Post, a mentor to King Charles and godfather to Prince William, as founding patron.

Page served as the charity's executive chairman until 2020 and by the time he stood down, the CRT had built up a portfolio of £33 million worth of sustainable farmland across 18 sites, including Lark Rise Farm in his own village of Barton, where sympathetic farming methods led to the reintroduction of grey partridges, skylarks, yellowhammers and reed buntings, and the return of otters and brown hares.

He was a 'vocal yokel … an ordinary village boy with a message or two'

The King became a longstanding supporter, visiting Lark Rise Farm, consulting Page on environmental matters and inviting him and his wife to stay at Balmoral.

Despite the efforts of the Trust, Page feared that "the destruction of the countryside, its beauty, its history, its people and its culture is nearing completion". That today's children play computer games rather than "catching tadpoles in the village pond" and "cannot name the wildflowers or the birds that sing" he cited as sad evidence that the world he loved was facing extinction.

Yet if he was a romantic, he lambasted the media's presentation of an idealised countryside as "sanitised and soaked in saccharine". Rural life, he acknowledged, was sometimes harsh and unforgiving and his own writings "described things as they are, including sharp teeth and claws".

In one memorable passage he wrote of a summer's country morning "wet with dew, shafts of sunlight drifting through the gossamer threads of a spider's web" only to jolt his readers in the next sentence with a description of "a row of headless hens after a visit from a fox".

Calling himself a "vocal yokel … an ordinary village boy with a message or two", he wrote more than 30 books on rural matters, including *The Wildlife of the Royal Estates* (1984) to which Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, contributed an introduction.

A decade earlier he had published *The Decline of an English Village*, an account of his youth growing up in the bucolic surroundings of Barton when "life remained very much as it had for centuries" and of its subsequent erosion, "misused and abused in the name of urbanisation and industrialisation".

The book's message struck a chord and sounded a warning. A review in The Times Literary Supplement described it as "a social document relevant to the whole English countryside".

As a South Cambridgeshire district councillor, Page argued tirelessly for more than three decades against housing developments that encroached on the rural environment until he resigned his seat in disgust in 2006, complaining that both local and national government policies were "trashing" the countryside.

He likened one affordable housing development in the village of Great Eversden to a jihadist trail of destruction in Iraq. When another new estate named its streets Kingfisher Gardens, Lapwing Avenue, Skylark Road and Partridge Close, he denounced it as a "cynical marketing ploy that conjures up images of delightful birds and rural idylls but robs these very birds of places in which to feed and breed".

It was easy enough for his detractors to dismiss him as a Luddite and there is no doubt that he was wedded to a way of life that was deeply at odds with the pace of 21st-century living. Yet many sympathised when he questioned whether much of what we call "progress" is really any such thing.

"I am told that my standard of living has increased, that I have the benefit of new roads, runways, street lights, wheelie-bins, health centres, houses and cars, as well as access to more gadgets and electronic wonders than apples on a tree," he wrote. "But as my 'standard of living' has increased, so the quality of my life has dramatically decreased."

His views — and the forthrightness with which he expressed them — often led him into trouble. Many of his opinions were politically incorrect, he had no time for the "woke" brigade and he refused to accept the evidence of man-made climate change.

In 2002 he was arrested on suspicion of inciting racial hatred for a speech in Gloucestershire which began with the words: "If you are a black, vegetarian, Muslim, asylum-seeking, one-legged lesbian lorry driver, I want the same rights as you." He was released without charge and six years later was paid compensation for wrongful detention.

A lifelong campaigner against what he called "the environmental catastrophe of overpopulation" he attracted further headlines several years later when he suggested immigrants should be tricked into taking contraceptive drugs. He later claimed the remark was intended as a "joke".

A fervent opponent of the European Union, which he blamed for "destroying our agriculture, fisheries, legal system, borders and industries", he sought a home for his views in various parties but ultimately rejected them all as "reeking of political deceit and corruption".

He stood for the Conservatives in Bethnal Green and Bow in the 1979 general election and for Sir James Goldsmith's Eurosceptic Referendum Party in the 1997 general election.

As the campaign to leave the EU gathered pace, he stood twice for Ukip before he fell out with Nigel Farage and in 2009 switched to the short-lived United Kingdom First Party. Finally he stood as an independent in South Cambridgeshire in 2010, which gave him the possibly unique record of fighting and losing the same parliamentary seat in three general elections under three different banners.

For 30 years he wrote the Country Diary column in The Daily Telegraph. Thrice he was sacked over various controversies and twice he was reinstated due to popular demand from the paper's readers. However, his dismissal in 2016 — notified by an out-of-office-hours email, he claimed — was final. "I have been restructured out of the paper by corporate, urban money men," he wrote in a blog which he launched under the name Skylark Warrior.

For half a dozen years he also presented *One Man and His Dog*, the BBC television series about sheepdog trials. At its peak, the show attracted an audience of eight million but Page was sacked in 1999 for taking part in the Countryside Alliance protest marches.

He is survived by his wife, Anita Winton-Smith, known as Lulu, three stepchildren and on a recent count two dogs, ten sheep, 16 cows and an unknown number of free-range hens. His last wish was to be buried "at the base of a hedge in my favourite meadow".

The youngest of three children, Robin Chapman Page was born in 1943 in Barton, Cambridgeshire, on a "sunny May morning" on which he imagined his mother Enid "could hear the cuckoo and the skylark from her bedroom, singing halfway between Heaven and Earth". His father, Mervyn Page, ran a 120-acre farm and for the first few years of his life the lavatory was a bucket in the yard and water came from a hand pump in the garden. Even Page did not deny that it was progress when taps and a flushing loo eventually arrived.

Milking was by hand, sitting astride a three-legged stool, and at harvest time a horse-drawn "binder" cut the corn. Such vivid memories never left him as over his lifetime he watched the landscape of his youth "lose its warmth, its scent, its sound — and its heart".

He suffered from asthma, but did not allow it to impact his relentless energy. He climbed Kilimanjaro twice, played football for his village team until he was 48 and cricket for even longer.

His rebellious spirit was evident from an early age. He was kicked out of the cadet force at school, asked to leave teacher training college for being a "disruptive influence" and in 1969 was sacked from the civil service for a breach of the Official Secrets Act.

Still in his twenties, he concluded that the only thing left was to go "back to the land". He also took up writing about the countryside he loved, his qualification not based on "a piece of paper with 'environmental studies' written on it" but simply in being a "countryman". It was the only word that was needed, for all that he cared about and stood for flowed from it.

Robin Page, countryman, was born on May 3, 1943. He died of pancreatic cancer on May 27, 2023, aged 80

Lord Carswell

Former lord chief justice of Northern Ireland who presided over high-profile terrorist trials in the juryless 'Diplock courts'

Early one January morning in 1984, on the day before Robert Carswell was due to be sworn in as a High Court judge in Northern Ireland, he got down on his knees to check beneath his car and found a bomb.

He rushed his wife and two teenage daughters out of their home near Stormont in East Belfast. The bomb disposal squad conducted a controlled explosion. Even that was enough to create a large crater in the drive and extensively damage the ground floor. His wife, Romayne, was deeply shocked by the Provisional IRA's attempt to kill her husband, but Carswell was undeterred.

A dutiful and conscientious man, he went on to serve for the next 20 years as a High Court judge, Appeal Court judge and lord chief justice of Northern Ireland. In those roles he presided over high-profile terrorist trials heard in the pressurised setting of the province's juryless "Diplock courts", and ably steered the judiciary through the difficult aftermath of the Good Friday agreement, before becoming a lord of appeal in ordinary (law lord) with a seat in the House of Lords. In the process he earned himself a reputation for unfailing courtesy and fairness.

For much of that period, Lord Carswell was unable to live a normal private life in a city afflicted by the Troubles. A keen golfer and rugby enthusiast, he had to accept a 24-hour security detail, an armoured car and restrictions on his movements. He accepted them gracefully because, he joked, they were "preferable to the alternative".

Robert Douglas Carswell was born in Belfast in 1934, the older of two sons. His father, Alan, ran a family printing business, and his mother, Nance, was a housewife. He was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, commonly known as Inst, where he excelled academically and became head boy. At an interschool debating competition he found himself on a team that supported the motion "We are living in the best of all possible worlds" and was captained by his future wife Romayne Ferris, then head girl of Belfast's Victoria College. They began dating the following year and married a decade later.

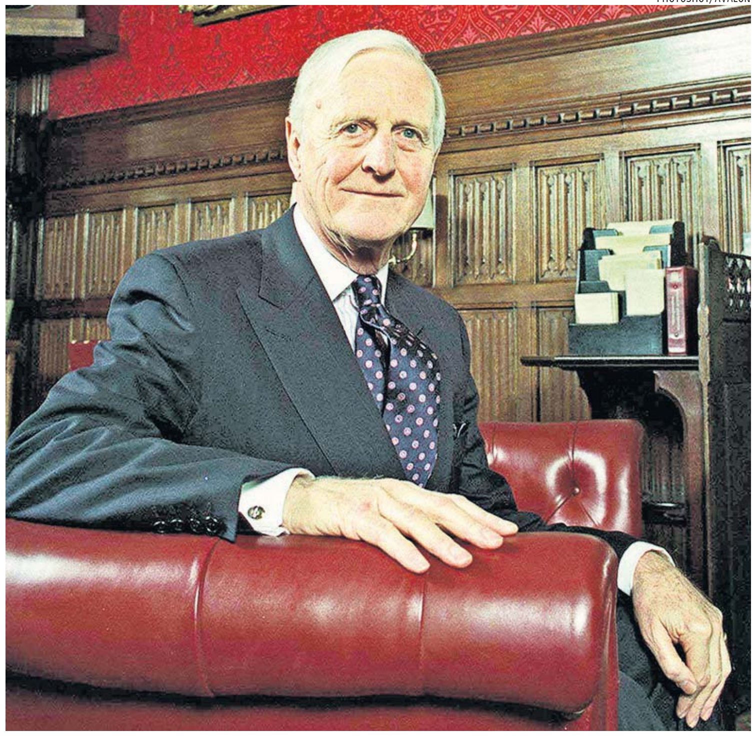
Raised a Presbyterian, he switched to his wife's church shortly after marrying her. The couple had two daughters — Catherine, who works as a high-level personal assistant in the City, and Patricia, a former barrister who now works as a communications officer for Trinity College, Bristol. Lady Carswell, who survives her husband, served on various public bodies and was lord lieutenant of Belfast from 2000 to 2009.

From Inst Carswell won a scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he was a contemporary of Michael Heseltine and read classics and law, graduating with a first-class degree in jurisprudence in 1956. He also played rugby for Pembroke and served as president of its literary and law societies. "The whole process gave me a degree of confidence which was of inestimable value to an unsophisticated young provincial," he recalled.

With the help of a Fulbright award he went on to study at the University of Chicago Law School for a year, during which he travelled through the Deep South and was shocked by its institutionalised racial segregation.

The bomb that was meant to kill him left a large crater in his drive

PHOTOSHOT/AVALON



Carswell in 1997. He never shied away from accepting the most difficult cases

Returning to his native Belfast, he was called to the Bar in 1957 and worked as a barrister for the next 14 years, taking on a broad range of civil litigation cases. In 1971 he took silk, and from 1979 served as senior crown counsel in Northern Ireland. In that role he represented the government at the inquest into the deaths of Bobby Sands and nine other republican hunger strikers in the Maze prison in 1981.

In 1984, having survived the IRA's attempt to murder him, he became a High Court judge in a judicial system whose distinguishing feature was its juryless "Diplock courts". These had been established to hear terrorism cases in the early 1970s because juries were being intimidated by paramilitary organisations.

In a rare interview in 2005, Carswell told The Daily Telegraph that Diplock courts placed a heavy and exhausting burden on judges. "At the end of the case there's not the catharsis of the jury verdict … The judge has to go through all the evidence, go through all the arguments, do any necessary reading or research and then write a judgment — with nobody else to lean on. Jurors have each other, [judges in] the Court of Appeal have a couple of other members to discuss the case with, but the non-jury trial judge is on his own."

Despite that, he never shied from accepting the most difficult cases.

In 1985 he presided over the ten-month trial and eventual convictions of 27 men arrested on the evidence of a republican "supergrass". Of those 24 subsequently had their convictions overturned because "supergrasses" came to be seen as unreliable witnesses.

In 1986 he presided over the trial of two men and two sisters, all members of the republican Irish National Liberation Army, for the murder of 17 people — 11 of them soldiers — in a bomb attack on the Droppin' Well disco in Ballykelly, Co Londonderry. He gave them all life sentences.

Controversially, in 1990, he sentenced three men to life imprisonment after two British soldiers were killed in republican West Belfast having inadvertently driven into an IRA funeral. The corporals were dragged from their car, severely beaten and shot while a British army helicopter hovered overhead, filming but powerless to save them. Two other men were convicted of actually murdering the corporals, but Carswell used the doctrine of "common purpose" to convict the so-called "Casement Three" of aiding and abetting the murders. Despite protests from civil rights activists, two of the three convictions were upheld on appeal.

Some of those Carswell imprisoned were later freed under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday agreement. By then he had risen to become lord chief justice of Northern Ireland. Asked how judges felt about convicted terrorists being released, he replied: "The judges feel they have done their job. This is somebody else's doing and they're not going to lose sleep over it."

Seen as somewhat conservative, he barred two nationalist barristers from practising as QCs because they refused to take an oath of loyalty to the Queen. That ruling was overturned on judicial review.

Carswell became a law lord in 2004, serving in that role until the Supreme Court was established in 2009. Thereafter he sat in the Lords as a crossbencher until his retirement in 2019. During his long career he also served as chairman of the Council of the University of Ulster, president of the Northern Ireland Scout Council, and chancellor of the Church of Ireland dioceses of Armagh and of Down and Dromore.

In 2000, in perhaps his most memorable ruling as lord chief justice, Carswell overturned the conviction of Iain Hay Gordon, a 20-year-old RAF technician, for murdering a judge's daughter, Patricia Curran, nearly 50 years previously. Gordon, who was consigned to a mental hospital for seven years, had always maintained that he signed a confession under duress.

Lord Carswell, former lord chief justice of Northern Ireland, was born on June 28, 1934. He died on May 4, 2023, aged 88

Ingrid Haebler

Retiring Austrian pianist known as 'Madame Mozart' whose gentle interpretations came to define how the maestro is heard

Ingrid Haebler's interpretations of Mozart were so delicate that on April 18, 1966, a Dutch tulip at Keukenhof gardens in the Netherlands was named after her.

"She exudes gemütlichkeit, that peculiar blend of geniality and warm sentiment," wrote one New York Times critic in 1976. "She spun the piece out with exquisite clarity and fragile charm."

Her playing was so quietly expressive and crystalline that while she was widely known as "Madame Mozart" and influenced the way the Austrian maestro is heard today, there were some who thought her playing self-effacing, lightweight and lacking in spontaneity.

To listen to Haebler, one review suggested, was to glimpse a "cloudless, untroubled Mozart" — the unpretentious parlour musician rather than the dissonant child prodigy (a view popularised by the 1985 film *Amadeus*) whose complex music demanded a virtuosic and full-blooded interpretation.

During the postwar period Mozart had enjoyed something of a resurgence but if there was anything more difficult than mastering his intricate sonatas and concertos, Haebler said, it was striking a balance between the sweet rococo tinkling of a carefree child and the angst-laden strains of a troubled genius.

ALAMY



Haebler at Keukenhof with a tulip named after her in 1966, and a recording cover

This was the challenge Haebler took on at the start of her career, and when the 21-year-old passed her concert exam at the Salzburg Mozarteum in 1947, receiving the coveted Lotte Lehmann Medal, judges commended her sober and subtle diction, which stood out among the keyboard thundering of her fellow musicians.

She was born in Vienna in 1926 and raised in Warsaw, one of three children to Armin von Haebler and Charlotte "Sissy" (née von Schüch), who were of aristocratic descent. Her mother wanted to be a piano teacher but had to give it up when she got married at the age of 20. Yet she did teach her daughter from a young age. By 11 Ingrid was playing Mozart, as well as compositions of her own, in public.

After the Salzburg Mozarteum, where she would later teach, she studied at the Vienna Academy under Paul Weingarten and then Richard Hauser; when she joined the Geneva Conservatory in 1950 she was mentored by Nikita Magaloff, as well as Marguerite Long at the Paris Conservatory in 1953. A series of awards marked Haebler as a promising pianist; in 1952 she won joint second prize in the Geneva Competition, and two years later first prize in the Munich and Geneva Schubert Competitions, which propelled her international career.

The following year she recorded Mozart's Sonatas No 12 and No 13 and a year later Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. There were also three appearances at the BBC Proms in 1960, 1965 and 1988.

Critics were not always kind. She was called "prim" and berated for resisting bold ornamentation when it came to cadenzas. "That is what the master wrote and that is what I shall play", was one caricaturing comment made in a Gramophone review in the late 1960s. It perhaps did not help that in person she could be just as retiring and violet-hearted as her piano playing.

Yet by the end of her career Haebler could claim to have recorded every concerto and sonata Mozart had written and her rhythmic clarity, silken articulation and attention to detail would influence a generation of Mozart pianists.

In 2022 Decca Records released a boxset with 58 discs and over 100 tracks of her performances. On the Bach recordings Haebler might have silenced her harshest critics for her unorthodox use of the fortepiano, then a largely obsolete instrument with harpsichord-like strings which Mozart had composed with. She had chanced upon one at a recital in Belgium in the 1960s. "The next day, when I left the city, my body seemed to need the sound of that old instrument," she recalled, "so I asked the instrument makers Neupert if they could create a fortepiano for me, with all the characteristics of its time."

Ingrid Haebler, pianist known as Madame Mozart, was born on June 20, 1926. She died on May 14, 2023, aged 93

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
31st May, 2023
The King this morning received Major General James Bowder (Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Grenadier Guards) and Major James Gatehouse (Regimental Adjutant) who presented His Majesty with a sculpture commissioned to celebrate the Coronation.

Mr Tristram Lewis (Sculptor) and Ms Miriam Johnson (Stonemason) were also received by The King.

His Majesty, Company Commander, The King's Company Grenadier Guards, this afternoon received Major Jonathan Hathaway-White (Captain, The King's Company), and Warrant Officer Dean Jones and Warrant Officer Matthew Hall (Company Sergeant Majors).

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Wigston was received by His Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the Air Staff.

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The King.

The Queen, Patron, Helen and Douglas House, this afternoon received Ms Clare Periton at Clarence House upon relinquishing her appointment as Chief Executive Officer.

By command of The King, Mr Alistair Harrison (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Igor Pokaz at 21 Conway Street, London W1, this afternoon in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Croatia to the Court of St James's.

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BUT I am telling you the truth: it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you. John 16.7 (GNB)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

EINCHCOMB on 20th May 2023 to Louise (née Lumsden) and George, a son, Finley James Charles.

FULLER on 24th May 2023 to Rosalind (née Drury) and James, a son, Douglas Patrick, brother to Maeve.

TROY on 24th May 2023 to Laura (née Cox) and Alexander, a daughter, Imogen Charlotte, sister to Alice Olivia.

Deaths

AYLMER
Maddalena, Lady. Peacefully with family at her side on 21st May, aged 95. Widow of Michael. Dearly loved mother of Julian and Gioia, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service to be held at St James Church, Ramsden, Oxfordshire, on Friday 9th June at 11.30am. All inquiries to E Taylor & Son Funeral Directors, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3LG. Tel: 01993 842421.

AYLWIN Charles Byng on 8th May 2023, aged 88, passed away peacefully at home after a long illness. Much-loved husband of Yen, Ming, father to Simon, Anthony, Anna and Jonathan and grandfather to Gabriel, Eva, Violet, Louis, Sam, Cate, Sally and Arthur.

BAYLEY
Jean died peacefully on 10th May, aged 83. Adored mother of Neil, Sarah, Timothy, Robin, daughter-in-law Wendy and soon to be daughter-in-law Lynsey. Proud grandmother of Abigail and Charley, and great-grandmother to Dylan, Daisy, Rufus and Nellie Jean. She will be greatly missed by her family and her very many friends. Funeral service on Friday 9th June at 12pm at Poole Crematorium, Gravel Hill, Broadstone, Poole BH17 9BQ. All welcome. Dress code optional: purple, floral, mismatched socks. In lieu of flowers, donations to RNLI, British Red Cross or NSPCC can be made online to headandwheble.co.uk or sent to Head & Wheble Funeral Directors, 1a Oxford Rd, Lansdowne Mews, Bournemouth BH8 8EY. Tel: 01202 551190.

BRAY Robin Hubert died peacefully on 10th May 2023, aged 81. Much-loved father to James and Olly, and inspirational grandfather to Ed, Will, Bella and Max, and loving companion to Clare. Service at Salisbury Crematorium on Tuesday 20th June at noon to which all family and friends are warmly invited. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the Alzheimer's Society.

DAVIS WG CDR
John
Passed away peacefully in the Andover Hospice on 30th April 2023, aged 89.

A celebration of life will be held at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Thruxton, on Friday 9th June at 3pm and afterwards in the Thruxton Memorial Hall.

Family flowers only please. Donations to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice can be made at www.john-davis-1934-2023.muchloved.com

CHAWNER Doctor Judith Mary died peacefully on 10th May, aged 86. Much-loved mother to Hugh and Josephine and beloved grandmother of Tristram, James, Rory, Emma and Tom. Funeral on 5th June. Donations to the RSPB c/o TW Boorman Funeral Directors on 01892 541070.

CROSSLEY Jack died peacefully on 22nd May 2023. Very much loved husband of Kate, father of Gary, Andy and Dan, grandfather of Hannah, Amy, Jess, Lillie and Ruby, and great-grandfather of Freddie and Arya. Distinguished news journalist on The Times, The Observer and most major newspapers. A celebration of his life will be held at The Baskerville, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3NY on Thursday 15th June at 2pm. Family flowers. Donations to Sue Ryder c/o Tomalin & Son, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG or online at jack-crossley.muchloved.com

DAVIES Prudence Mary SRN (née Littlechild) on 28th May 2023, aged 81. Wife of Richard and mother of Benjamin and Oliver.

FARRER Sir Matthew GCVO, on 21st May 2023, aged 93. Solicitor. For 30 years Private Solicitor to the late Queen. Trustee of the British Museum and British Library. Survived by his wife Johanna, daughter Mabella and son Luke. Private cremation. Memorial service TBC.

FERRIS (WINSTANLEY) Louise Vaughan (née Winstanley) died peacefully on 25th May 2023, aged 74 The funeral will take place at the Tunbridge Wells crematorium, on 11th July 2023 at 12.15pm. Flowers can be sent to Tester and Jones, London Rd, Crowborough TN6 2TT.

FORBES Mary Lady Forbes MBE, beloved widow of Sir Hamish, much-loved aunt and stepmother. Funeral service at Strathdon Kirk, on 19th June, at 11.30am.

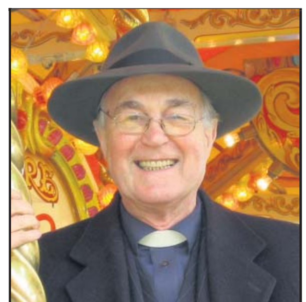
JONES David le Brun CB on 18th May 2023, aged 99, died peacefully at home. Predeceased by his wife Enid and son Thomas he leaves a daughter Katharine and five grandchildren. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Saturday 17th June at noon. No flowers please, donations if wished to Shelter. Loved and respected by those who knew him.

LEE Nigel Haywood Wilton OBE died peacefully at home on 21st May, aged 86. Beloved husband of the late Sarah, much-loved father of Lucinda, Robert and Jeremy and wonderful grandfather to Edward, Charles, India, Isabelle, Nicholas, Miranda, Billy and Honor. Family cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Docking, PE31 8LH at 12.30pm on Friday 16th June. Family flowers only.

MAYHEW Jo died peacefully on 18th May 2023, aged 86, of Eastbourne, Barcombe and Southend. Beloved wife of the late Doug Mayhew and much-loved mother, grandmother, friend. Funeral midday Wed 7th June 2023 St Mary's Church, Old Town, Eastbourne. Burial 3pm Thursday 8th June 2023 St Mary's Churchyard, Barcombe, nr Lewes. All welcome.

MCMANUS Catherine (née Lothian) on 26th April 2023, aged 91. Much-loved Mum of Deirdre, Siobhán, Adrian and Julian and Grandma to Callum. Requiem Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon SW19 4LU, Tuesday 6th June at noon. Family flowers only. Requiescat in Pace.

HOYER MILLAR Hon Alastair died peacefully on 20th May 2023, aged 86. Much-loved father of Martha and Christian, husband of Virginia, grandfather to Hope, Ferdie, Humphrey, Eliza and Rose. Funeral service at St James's Church, St James's Gardens, Holland Park at 1.30pm on 15th June 2023. Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to www.pembridgehospice.org/donate or www.mssociety.org.uk



OATES
John died peacefully on 25th May 2023, aged 93, following a heart attack and brief illness. loving husband of Sylvia (deceased); father of Alistair, David, Jeremy, Jonathan and Rebecca; grandfather of Alexandra, Andrew, Barney, Claire, Henry, James, Jenny and Robbie; great-grandfather of Isla, Oscar, Sebastian and William. Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street (1984-2000); Vicar of Richmond (1970-1984). A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will take place in the near future. Inquiries to family@oates.co.uk

OGLETHORPE Nicholas Ralph. Sadly died in Norfolk on the 11th May 2023, aged 90. For funeral details, please contact mlmccubbin@outlook.com

RAYNSFORD
Richard on 19th May 2023, aged 77. Loving husband of the late Rosemary, father to Tom and Clemmie, grandfather to Isabella, Monty, Oscar and Theo. Memorial service at 2pm on Wednesday, 28th June at the Guards' Chapel, London SW1E 6HQ.

ROBERTSON Michael John Stuart died unexpectedly on 14th May at home, aged 86. Beloved husband of Jill, loving father of Jane, Kate and David, dear brother of Elizabeth and proud grandfather of his five grandchildren. Funeral service at noon on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at St Mary's Church, Kings Walden SG4 8JX. No flowers please but donations gratefully received in his memory, to the Friends of St Mary's. Please visit www.austins.co.uk, select "tributes and donations" and enter Michael Robertson's name. All inquiries to Austin's. Tel: 01462 438422.

ROSENFELD Alfred John CB died peacefully on 30th April 2023, aged 101. Much-loved husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa, missed by all.

RUSTON Nicholas died peacefully on 16th May 2023, aged 88. Greatly missed husband to Sandra, father to Annabelle and Jeremy and stepfather to Clive, Fiona, Nicky and Simon. Funeral 3pm, Monday 5th June, St Mary's Polstead. Donations to the RNLI via givinmemory.co.uk

SPENCER Derek Harold KC died on 19th May 2023, aged 87. Former Solicitor General. Born Clitheroe, Lancs. Much-loved father to Caroline, David, Andrew and Frederick and loving grandfather to Georgia, Harriet and Matthew. Greatly missed by all. Funeral service will be held on Tuesday June 6th at 2pm in London at Mortlake Crematorium, Kew Meadows Path, Townmead Rd, TW9 4EN. All welcome. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Royal Trinity Hospice. Details of Memorial Service to be announced at a later date.

SYMINGTON Toby William. Beloved father to three wonderful sons, Luke, Benedict and Gabriel, and husband to Catharine. Died suddenly on 20th May before his time, aged 65, surrounded by loving family, on holiday in France. He will be greatly missed. Funeral on Friday 2nd June at 3pm at St Michael's and All Angels, Urchfont near Devizes, Wiltshire. Family flowers only and donations, if desired, to Wessex Heartbeat c/o AP McDonald Funerals 01380 698188.

WOODS Timothy, beloved son, husband, father, brother and grandpops, died on 27th May 2023 suddenly but as he would have wanted. He will be hugely missed by so many. Taken far too soon but you can't always get what you want.

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Reference: 00425734
Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator

AFFIDAVIT
On 9th March 2023 I, Kim Gan served The Secretary of State for Home Office my Affidavit of Repudiation and Revocation of Corporate Citizenship. I gave her Notice of 21 days to provide a rebuttal. All paperwork can be found on https://kgaor.uk/about-kim

AFFIDAVIT
On 9th March 2023 I, Dani Gan served The Secretary of State for Home Office my Affidavit of Repudiation and Revocation of Corporate Citizenship. I gave her Notice of 21 days to provide a rebuttal. All paperwork can be found on https://kgaor.uk/about-dani

Law

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Alex Chalk KC, left, with Lord Burnett of Maldon, the lord chief justice, centre, and Sir Geoffrey Vos, master of the rolls

Calls to reform 'fragile' role of lord chancellor

Debate over the post's future breaks out after Alex Chalk KC is sworn in. By **Catherine Baksi**

Alex Chalk KC described the responsibility of being lord chancellor as "like carrying a Ming vase — ancient, priceless … but also fragile — and doing so whilst walking across a polished floor".

Chalk, the ninth post holder in the past decade, was sworn in last week, replacing Dominic Raab, who resigned over bullying allegations. In his speech welcoming Chalk, the lord chief justice, Lord Burnett of Maldon, suggested it was again time to reform the ancient office. Until 2005 the lord chancellor had historically worn three hats — he was a member of the legislature, the executive and the head of the judiciary.

Unable to abolish the post, as Tony Blair had planned, the Labour government introduced reforms that critics argued politicised the role. The Constitutional Reform Act 2005 kept the title of lord chancellor, but the holder also became the secretary of state for justice and was responsible for the functioning and independence of the courts.

The former functions as head of the judiciary and presiding officer of the House of Lords were transferred to the lord chief justice and the lord speaker.

The act provided for the creation of the Supreme Court, which took over the House of Lords' judicial functions in 2009, and created a Judicial Appointments Commission, which assumed the lord chancellor's power to appoint senior judges. The act also removed the requirement for the office holder to be legally qualified.

"Despite the profound legislative changes to the role, the lord chancellor remains the constitutional linchpin between executive and judiciary," Burnett said at Chalk's swearing-in, emphasising the task of defending the independence of the judiciary. He suggested that the responsibility for running prisons should be removed from the Ministry of Justice, which on its creation in 2007 took over the job from the Home Office. Burnett did not suggest which department should take over the task. He also hinted that lord chancellors should serve for the duration of a parliament rather than being subject to change in ministerial reshuffles. Burnett said the role "was a destination job with incumbents often serving for a whole parliament or more; but that is no longer the case". Burnett's suggestion regarding prisons echoed

> **'The office has been undermined by the repeated changes'**

the conclusion of the House of Lords constitution committee in its report in January on reforming the role of the lord chancellor. Peers went further, suggesting that the prime minister in time may wish to consider separating the role of lord chancellor from that of secretary of state for justice.

Lord Falconer of Thoroton KC, the architect of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, defends his changes as "right and necessary". However, he agrees with the idea that the lord chancellor should serve for a whole parliament, suggesting that the office had been "undermined by the repeated changes" in the past ten years. Falconer opposes splitting responsibility for probation, prisons and penal policy away from the courts, legal aid and constitutional affairs. Returning them to the purview of the "massively dysfunctional" Home Office, he says, "would revert to the bad old days where there was no one to ensure that changes in criminal law were always matched by appropriate provision in relation to prison funding".

In a debate last year on standards of behaviour in political life, a former justice minister, Lord Wolfson of Tredegar KC, said that he wanted to see an "enhanced and invigorated role" for the lord chancellor. One former holder of the office, Sir Robert Buckland KC, agrees. He would revert to a time when the holder was required to be a "lawyer of standing" to satisfy the judiciary that the person was up to the job of defending their independence and the rule of law. Had he remained in office, Buckland says that he would have sought to implement changes. He says that he would send prisons back to the Home Office and set up a department to take the responsibility for immigration.

Wolfson tells The Times that the Ministry of Justice should retain responsibility for prisons and probation, with a separate Department for Constitutional Affairs with responsibility for "all things which are part of the rule of law in its broadest sense and underpin our constitution the rule of law", including the judiciary, the constitutional settlement, devolution, human rights and international law and treaties. He would remove the responsibility for immigration, borders and passports from the Home Office and create a separate Department for Homeland Security.

Andrea Coomber KC, chief executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, welcomed the lord chief's reform idea. Having previously led the campaign group Justice, she says: "The very real struggles in courts and tribunals are small fry within the Ministry of Justice compared to the monolithic challenges and expense presented by the prison estate." Police and prisons, she suggests, "sit more neatly together than police and immigration".

Burnett is expected to appear before the Lords constitution committee, where he may add to his ideas. Until then he can take comfort from Chalk's statement that he sees his post "very much as a destination job" and pledge to "do everything I can to uphold the judiciary's hard-won reputation for excellence, integrity and independence".

Public needs direct action to crack down on digital scammers

Edward Garnier KC
Comment

Economic crime — bribery, money laundering and fraud — is back in the news and on political agendas, although it has not really been out of the spotlight over the past 20 years.

Two pieces of proposed legislation before parliament, the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill and the Online Safety Bill, provide an opportunity to improve protection for the public from financial crime, so long as the government does not pull its punches.

In February 2022 Kwasi Kwarteng, then business secretary, said that fraud and online scams were not problems that "people experience in their daily lives". How wrong he was. The absence of investigations and prosecutions did not and does not mean that people were and are not suffering from this criminal offence. Hardly a day passes without this newspaper or a television programme reporting on an elderly person, or not so elderly businessperson, being electronically mugged of their savings by some unscrupulous villain hidden behind a sophisticated computer scam.

Of course, there is no blood on the carpet, nor broken bones, but the number of people deeply affected by fraud and online scams is huge. The crime survey from England and Wales for the year to September 2021 showed that fraud represented 42 per cent of all crime. It still does. Criminal computer hacking took the figure to 57 per cent. UK Finance research revealed that there had been 2.8 million cases of bank card fraud and 150,000 cases of online bank transfer scams — and the figures are showing no sign of going down. Nowadays only an idiot runs into a bank with a sawn-off shotgun to steal the money — it is far easier and safer to do that armed with a computer sitting on an armchair at home or, better still, from some sunny beachside bar.

The Home Office has recently published its fraud strategy, which sets out a plan to stop crime at the source and pursue those responsible wherever they are in the world. The aim is to reduce fraud by 10 per cent on 2019 levels by the end of 2024. Not exactly ambitious — and to achieve that fairly modest cut the government sets out a list of worthy aims wrapped in warm words. The strategy commits ministers to measures including establishing a national fraud squad with more than 400 new posts; making fraud a priority for the police; putting more fraudsters behind bars through better investigation and prosecution; and banning "SIM farms", which are used by criminals to send thousands of scam texts at once.

The government says that it will replace Action Fraud, the country's reporting service, with a state-of-the-art system, ban cold calls on financial products, stop people from hiding behind fake companies, create new powers to take down fraudulent websites, and shine a light on which platforms are the safest, making sure that companies are properly incentivised to combat fraud. Let's see what the success rate has been by the end of next year. I am not holding my breath, not because I am a natural cynic but because there are gaps in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill and the Online Safety Bill, which if filled now would be of greater practical utility than shining a light. What the public need is not several thousand words of strategy but direct action backed by the criminal law.

Two suggestions: first, the tried and tested failure to prevent bribery offence is ready to be replicated across a whole host of economic crimes. It has been shown to work, has improved corporate conduct and is now widely accepted in banking, insurance, accountancy and the legal profession as a public good. Yet the government is extending it only to fraud offences and limiting it to large organisations, which, by its own definition, covers 0.5 per cent of corporations and partnerships.

Ministers say that is to stop compliance costs inhibiting profitability, growth and start-ups. Exempting all burglars under 6ft 6in from criminal liability under the Theft Act would be an attractive policy for many criminals, but that does not make it a good idea. The criminal law is there to set the public boundaries to acceptable behaviour, not to fit in with the commercial desires of potential perpetrators. Second, the government must require internet service companies to play a more active part in the suppression of online crime. They have the means to do more but have no incentive to do so when it brings with it a cost. The Online Safety Bill should be strengthened to make these international money-making companies help in reducing online crime. Amendments to the bill are ready and waiting to be accepted by parliament, and the government needs to obey the will of parliament.

The UK must be seen as a safe and honest place to do business. It is not anti-business to force corporate Britain to help to make it safe — it is pro-honest business and honest business is good business.

Lord Garnier KC is a former solicitor-general

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In conversation
Adrian Jaggard on his 'disruptor' firm and overcoming dyslexia
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Data protection divides opinion

Jonathan Ames



GETTY IMAGES

General Data Protection Regulation was implemented in 2018 by Brussels

Four letters have over the past five years become an excuse for countless bureaucrats to say "no" to what used to be perfectly legitimate requests for information.

Those letters are GDPR and they stand for "General Data Protection Regulation" — an EU rule implemented in 2018 by Brussels and simultaneously incorporated into the UK statute book in the Data Protection Act.

The legislation has a laudable aim — protecting individuals' personal data from abuse by governments and private corporations. But few people at the coalface of daily life, including many lawyer, seem to understand the provisions. Therefore, those petty functionaries wheel it out as a way of having another cup of tea and avoiding work.

As the fifth anniversary of the law rolled around last week, data protection lawyers noted the continuing difficulties with the legislation — and some of its benefits. "The effectiveness of the GDPR continues to divide opinion," Sarah Pearce, a partner at the firm Hunton Andrews Kurt, says. "There is an absence of detailed guidance in certain areas of the legislation, which is leading to many organisations feeling overwhelmed and criticising it for being unnecessarily bureaucratic."

Despite that confusion, the legislation is making an impact. Last month, the EU's Court of Justice ruled in a case involving the Austrian post office. Officials in Vienna had used an algorithm to define "target group addresses" that were based on selected sociodemographic features — and then sold that data to organisations engaged in political advertising. The case involved a claim for compensation for breach of the data protection rules — and as Jan Spittka, a partner at the Dusseldorf office of the City law firm Clyde & Co, argues, the "landmark decision … is likely to significantly increase data privacy litigation across the EU". Spittka explains that the Luxembourg court "ruled that even though the court stated that a mere infringement of the GDPR … does not give rise to a right to claims for material or non-material damages, the right to compensation is not limited to non-material damage that reaches a certain threshold of seriousness". As a result, Spittka says, the ruling "significantly lowers the requirements for damage claims in a cyber incident scenario where thousands of individuals may be affected".

More widely — and back in the UK — the rule has created what Sian Stephens of Payne Hicks Beach describes as "administrative and compliance burdens on all organisations large and small". Businesses and other organisations are required to deliver the same level of compliance despite financial resources. Perhaps even more striking, regardless of size, they face the same level of fines: up to 4 per cent of annual worldwide turnover, or up to £17.5 million, for a breach of the UK GDPR. Pearce says that since the law came into force, the Information Commissioner's Office in the UK has doled out 13 fines totalling about £65 million. The latest was levied in April, when the office said that ideally it would prefer to issue reprimands or public disclosure of companies having breached the rules. Over the past 18 months, the office has named 32 organisations, 26 of which were public bodies.

Aisha Akhtar at Blacks Solicitors says that a key principle of the legislation is that organisations are "required to take responsibility for what they do with personal data and be able to demonstrate that steps are in place to protect people's rights". Yet she points to research showing that up to 52 per cent of UK businesses still do not have the minimum standards of compliance in place.

In post-Brexit Britain, reform to the legislation is rolling down the track. The proposed Data Protection and Digital Information Bill is set to amend the GDPR, with ministers attempting to ease the pain on smaller businesses. Stephens warns that the proposed legislation could still create "a substantial cost to UK businesses if adequacy with the EU is lost". Moreover, while ministers have granted "adequacy regulation" broadly to the same countries as the EU in the wake of the country's departure from the bloc, they wish to do the same for the US and Dubai, among others. Doing so would enable the lawful transfer of data between the UK and those countries, which are jurisdictions not approved by the EU. Stephens says that granting adequacy to the US "remains controversial for the EU" because of the 2020 Schrems II case, which invalidated the so-called privacy shield agreement between the US and the EU. Stephens says: "If the UK grants adequacy to the US it risks losing its own adequacy status with the EU."

Rafi Azim-Khan, a partner at the City office of the US firm Pillsbury, says that ministers have argued that the bill going through parliament will not materially change the GDPR. He says, however, that reforms, such as removing cookie consents, will trigger unease in Brussels. He also says: "The world has seen a rush to enact new data privacy laws. One silver lining has been the fact many rules are GDPR-esque, meaning businesses could build on GDPR efforts for consistency. If the UK now strays from such global trends, departing from the GDPR as the rest of the world copies to a material extent, it could see Britain accidentally pulling up a data drawbridge."

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Lawyer of the week **Benet Brandreth KC**

Benet Brandreth KC from 11 South Square chambers acted successfully for the budget supermarket Lidl in the "battle of the brands" against Tesco. The High Court ruled that Tesco's Clubcard promotional imagery infringed Lidl's trademark and copyright. Lidl is now seeking financial disclosure from the supermarket giant so that it can calculate what profits were made from the infringement.

What were the biggest hurdles you had to overcome in this case? Getting our opponents to set out their case on independent design. Then working out from disclosure what had actually happened. Finally, progressing the case to trial through interim disputes and appeals took far longer than desirable or desired.

What is the best decision you have taken as a lawyer? Saying no to work that I wanted to do but didn't have the capacity to do well.

Who do you most admire in the law? Sir Henry Carr — an outstanding lawyer and advocate but a better friend and mentor.



What is the best advice you have received? Shorter is usually better — shorter pleading, shorter skeleton arguments, shorter submission. Advice I honour more in the breach than the observance.

What is the funniest thing that has happened in your job? I received a draft judgment that identified my client's counsel as Gyles Brandreth QC. I am sure my father would say it was only a fair recognition of his influence.

What are the best and worst elements of being a lawyer? Best is when you get to argue about what the law should be rather than just what the law currently is. Worst is dealing with needlessly aggressive opponents who have watched too many American legal shows.

What law would you enact? A niche concern, but when you renew a trademark you should be obliged to show what use you have made of it and surrender the unused aspects.

What is your favourite book? The Lymond Chronicles by Dorothy Dunnett — grand historical adventures, erudite, exciting and engaging. Or maybe one of my own novels.

Linda Tsang
l_tsang@hotmail.com

OUT OF COURT

The cases, the chatter, the chaos: what's really going on in the law

A welcome from Burnett

Lord Burnett of Maldon has only a few months to run as lord chief justice and as a result he cuts a distinctly relaxed figure. At last week's ceremony to swear in Alex Chalk KC as lord chancellor, Burnett observed that the incumbent was "my seventh in just under six years, albeit one [Dominic Raab] twice".

Burnett hoped that Chalk would be his last. Otherwise, he quipped, "I would find myself, somewhat surprisingly, with something in common with Elizabeth Taylor. She has eight husbands — one twice." Chalk responded that "between 1678 and 1689 there were seven lord chief justices".

Chalk said he was reassured that there had also been some "absolute howlers" as lord chancellor, singling out Richard Rich, in post under Edward VI, who he said "is remembered for being immoral, dishonest, a perjurer". Chalk added: "I hope I can modestly improve on that."

Food for thought

Among the anecdotes and vignettes in the extended second volume of Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood's memoirs, the former law lord and Supreme Court judge recalls an annual dinner for the highest bench.

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, then the court's president, had arranged for it to take place at the Garrick Club, which did not allow women to join. Baroness Hale of Richmond, then the only female justice on the court, was "outraged" and took up Phillips's invitation to find an alternative venue.

Their lords and ladyship and partners became the first diners at an unnamed, newly opened restaurant beside Gray's Inn Hall. Brown says they dined "half as well and twice as expensively" as at the Garrick. "The original choice had clearly been a mistake and certainly it was one for which we all paid dearly," he writes.

Best Law Firms 2024

It's that time of year again — when the lawyers in England and Wales and Scotland are asked to decide on the lawyers' lawyers. The survey for our list of Best Law Firms 2024 is now available for completion, with the results scheduled to be unveiled at the end of October.

There are plenty of legal profession awards in the UK, but this is the only ranking that is determined by a scientific survey of practising lawyers themselves. Go to our website for details: timesbestlawfirms.co.uk.

■ **Subscribers can register for The Brief, our weekly newsletter. This week: insolvencies at UK firms soar by a third in one year**



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VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS



Santorini, Greece

When you arrive by sea, there is no confusing the island of Santorini. Dazzling white houses cling to the edge of vertical, rocky cliffs against azure blue waters. The most southern of the Cyclades islands, it is surrounded by Thirasia and Aspronisi, which were once part of a large volcanic island. Considered by many to be the site of the "Lost City of Atlantis", this magical little island glimmers from the fading sun as many watch its descent from the numerous bars and cafes at the water's edge.



Haifa, Israel

Haifa is your gateway to the Galilee region and Nazareth. It was in the Galilee that Christ first performed miracles, turning water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana. Mount of the Beatitudes is the scene of the Sermon on the Mount and present-day Capernaum is the location of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. In Acre, the World Heritage site of St. John and the crusaders is preserved. From its waterfront, Haifa ascends the steep slopes of Mt. Carmel, drawing comparisons with San Francisco.



Rhodes, Greece

The largest and arguably the most beautiful of the 12 islands forming the Dodecanese, Rhodes has long played a major role in history. The island straddles the sea-lanes linking Egypt, Southern Europe and the Holyland. Rhodes Town bears witness to that long history. The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, is reputed to have once stood guard over the harbour. Today, the bronze statues of a stag and doe top the two columns marking the harbour entrance.

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Mon 22	**Rome (from Civitavecchia), Italy**
Tue 23	**Pompeii/Capri (from Naples), Italy**
Fri 26	**Athens, Greece**
Sat 27	**Mykonos, Greece**
Sun 28	**Santorini, Greece**
Mon 29	**Kuşadası, Turkey**
Tue 30	**Rhodes, Greece**

OCTOBER 2025

Thu 2	**Galilee/Nazareth (from Haifa), Israel**
Fri 3	**Jerusalem/Bethlehem (from Ashdod), Israel**
Mon 6	**Valletta, Malta**
Tue 7	**Sicily (from Palermo), Italy**
Fri 10	**Seville (from Cádiz), Spain**
Sat 11	**Lisbon, Portugal**
Tue 14	**Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

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Today Dry with warm spells of sunshine in the west but cooler and cloudier further east. Max 25C (77F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C (midday yesterday)		Rain mm (24 hrs to 5pm yesterday)	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	12	C	**	4.1
Aberporth	14	C	0.0	**
Anglesey	15	S	0.0	**
Aviemore	12	C	0.0	0.1
Barnstaple	14	C	0.0	**
Bedford	13	C	0.4	**
Belfast	17	PC	0.0	1.0
Birmingham	12	D	0.2	**
Bournemouth	18	PC	0.0	1.7
Bridlington	12	C	0.0	**
Bristol	13	C	0.4	6.0
Camborne	13	C	0.0	**
Cardiff	14	C	0.0	1.7
Edinburgh	13	C	0.0	**
Eskdalemuir	14	C	0.0	**
Glasgow	16	C	0.0	**
Hereford	13	C	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	15	C	0.0	3.7
Ipswich	14	C	0.8	0.0
Isle of Man	15	S	0.0	**
Isle of Wight	17	S	0.0	**
Jersey	15	C	0.0	2.7
Keswick	18	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	12	C	0.0	1.5
Leeds	11	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	**	**	0.2	0.5
Leuchars	12	C	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	11	D	1.2	0.0
Liverpool	14	C	0.0	**
London	16	B	0.0	5.3
Lyneham	12	C	0.0	5.0
Manchester	14	C	0.0	10.6
Margate	13	C	0.0	0.8
Milford Haven	15	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	12	C	0.0	**
Nottingham	11	R	0.4	0.1
Orkney	13	C	0.0	0.2
Oxford	14	C	0.0	**
Plymouth	14	C	0.0	**
Portland	16	S	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	14	C	0.0	**
Shoreham	15	C	0.0	5.9
Shrewsbury	12	C	0.0	3.5
Snowdonia	13	C	0.0	**
Southend	15	C	0.2	0.0
South Uist	13	C	0.0	**
Stornoway	14	C	0.0	2.4
Tiree	14	S	0.0	1.0
Whitehaven	14	PC	0.0	4.0
Wick	14	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	16	B	0.0	4.9

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	24	PC	Madeira	20	D
Amsterdam	20	PC	Madrid	22	B
Athens	25	B	Malaga	25	PC
Auckland	17	S	Mallorca	25	PC
Bahrain	34	S	Malta	24	PC
Bangkok	34	PC	Melbourne	16	B
Barbados	31	PC	Mexico City	25	PC
Barcelona	24	PC	Miami	32	B
Beijing	24	S	Milan	22	S
Beirut	24	PC	Mombasa	24	R
Belgrade	20	B	Montreal	24	S
Berlin	23	S	Moscow	14	PC
Bermuda	24	B	Mumbai	34	S
Bordeaux	27	S	Munich	21	S
Brussels	22	S	Nairobi	22	B
Bucharest	26	S	Naples	26	PC
Budapest	25	S	New Orleans	29	S
Buenos Aires	16	S	New York	18	B
Cairo	34	S	Nice	24	PC
Calcutta	37	S	Nicosia	26	PC
Canberra	13	B	Oslo	18	S
Cape Town	16	C	Paris	23	S
Chicago	32	PC	Perth	21	SH
Copenhagen	20	S	Prague	20	S
Corfu	27	PC	Reykjavik	8	C
Delhi	28	S	Riga	20	S
Dubai	38	S	Rio de Janeiro	24	B
Dublin	14	B	Riyadh	36	PC
Faro	22	PC	Rome	25	PC
Florence	27	PC	San Francisco	18	PC
Frankfurt	25	S	Santiago	18	S
Geneva	23	PC	São Paulo	18	C
Gibraltar	23	PC	Seoul	24	B
Helsinki	16	PC	Seychelles	31	PC
Hong Kong	34	PC	Singapore	32	B
Honolulu	30	PC	St Petersburg	16	S
Istanbul	20	PC	Stockholm	17	S
Jerusalem	30	S	Sydney	22	S
Johannesburg	14	B	Tel Aviv	30	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	24	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	20	B
Lanzarote	23	PC	Vancouver	17	PC
Las Palmas	23	PC	Venice	25	S
Lima	21	B	Vienna	23	S
Lisbon	22	PC	Warsaw	20	S
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	24	PC
Luxor	38	S	Zurich	22	S

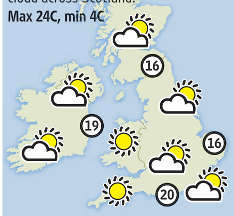
Five days ahead

Mainly dry with the best of any warm sunshine in the west but cooler and cloudier further east

Tomorrow

A dry day with warm spells of sunshine over most of the British Isles, although feeling a touch cooler in eastern areas and some thicker cloud across Scotland.

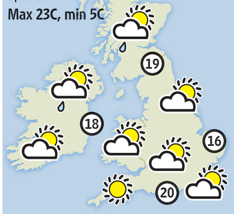
Max 24C, min 4C



Saturday

The small risk of a shower from thicker cloud in Scotland and the northeast of Ireland, otherwise it will be a dry and warm day with sunny spells.

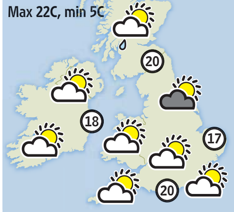
Max 23C, min 5C



Sunday

Dry with warm spells of sunshine across most of England, Wales and Ireland, but cloud lingering in eastern areas. The risk of a shower over Scotland.

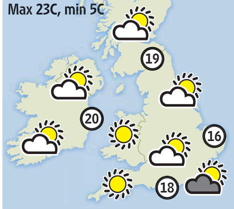
Max 22C, min 5C



Monday

A dry day across the British Isles with sunny spells and areas of cloud. Some thicker cloud in southern and eastern England and eastern Scotland. Feeling warm in any sunshine.

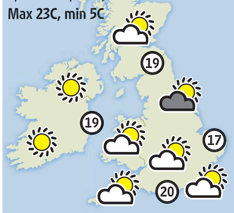
Max 23C, min 5C



Tuesday

Some thicker cloud may bring the odd spot of drizzle in eastern England and eastern Scotland. Dry elsewhere across Britain and Ireland with sunny spells and patchy cloud.

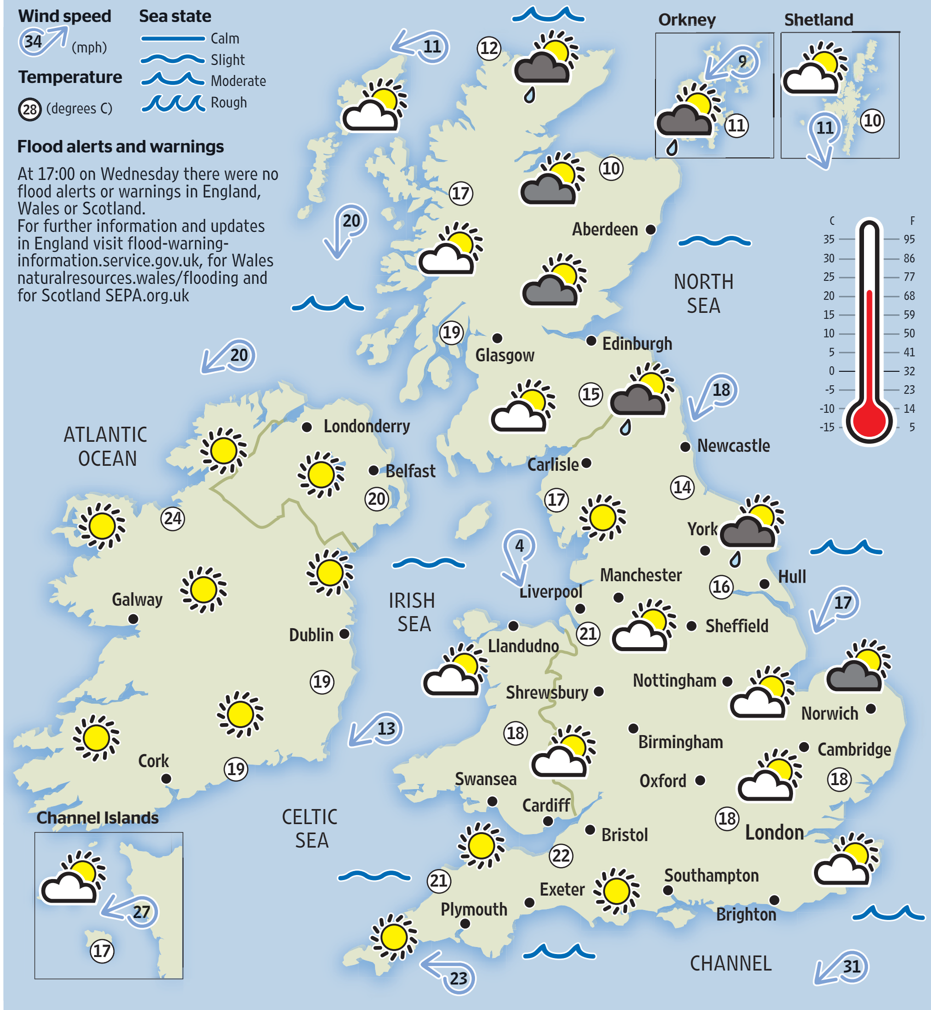
Max 23C, min 5C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Wednesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales and Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

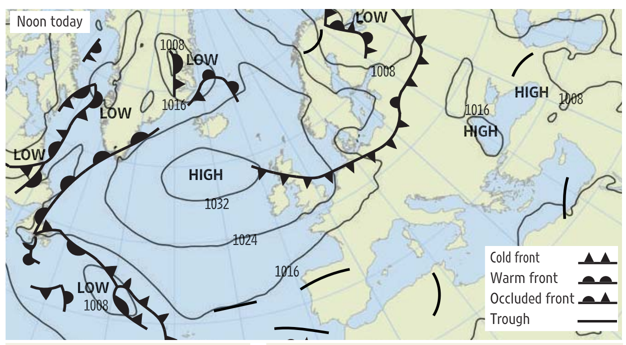


General situation: Rather cloudy with the risk of some drizzle in Scotland and eastern England. Dry with increasing amounts of sunshine elsewhere.
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland, NW Eng, IoM, SW Eng, Lake District, Argyll, Channel Is: Any mist or fog clearing to bring a dry, sunny and warm day. Light to moderate east or northeasterly wind, fresh in the Channel Islands. Maximum 25C (77F), minimum 4C (39F).
N Isles: Cloudy with showery drizzle clearing in the morning to bring a drier afternoon with sunny spells. Light to moderate northerly wind. Maximum 12C (54F), minimum 7C (45F).
E Anglia, E Eng, NE Eng, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee, Borders, NE Scotland: Rather cloudy with showery drizzle at times, but turning drier in the afternoon with some sunny intervals further inland. Light to moderate northeasterly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 3C (37F).
SW Scotland, Cen Highland, Glasgow, NW Scotland: A dry day with cloud clearing to bring warm spells of sunshine. Some cloud lingering in valleys. Light north or northeasterly wind. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 3C (37F).
Cen S Eng, SE Eng, Midlands, Wales, London: Cloud slowly clearing during the morning to bring a sunny afternoon and it will stay dry. Light to moderate northeasterly wind. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 5C (41F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	--:--	--	12:15	3.7
Avonmouth	05:41	11.3	18:12	11.6
Belfast	09:48	3.2	22:18	3.1
Cardiff	05:25	10.7	17:58	10.9
Devonport	04:12	4.8	16:45	4.8
Dover	09:48	5.8	22:02	6.1
Dublin	09:00	4.9	21:30	5.0
Falmouth	03:40	4.5	16:10	4.5
Greenock	10:53	3.1	23:54	3.0
Harwich	10:29	3.6	22:45	3.6
Holyhead	09:04	4.9	21:34	5.0
Hull	05:00	6.4	17:10	6.5
Leith	01:09	4.8	13:31	4.9
Liverpool	09:48	8.2	22:14	8.3
London Bridge	--:--	--	12:33	6.3
Lowestoft	08:35	2.2	20:18	2.3
Milford Haven	04:47	6.0	17:13	6.1
Morecambe	10:00	8.2	22:26	8.3
Newhaven	09:48	5.8	22:10	6.1
Newquay	03:42	5.9	16:07	6.1
Oban	04:30	3.4	17:02	3.4
Penzance	03:14	4.8	15:40	4.9
Portsmouth	10:15	4.1	22:36	4.4
Shoreham	09:52	5.4	22:15	5.7
Southampton	09:16	3.9	21:41	4.2
Swansea	04:51	8.2	17:21	8.4
Tees	02:17	4.8	14:27	4.9
Weymouth	05:08	1.7	17:57	1.8



Synoptic situation

High pressure will dominate across the British Isles bringing dry and mainly sunny conditions to Ireland, western Scotland, Wales and southern and western England. A cold front will bring thicker cloud and the small chance of some drizzle in eastern Scotland and eastern England. High pressure will continue to dominate into the weekend.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Tyndrum, Perthshire, 24.4C
Coldest: Altnahinch, 2.2C
Wettest: South Newington, Oxfordshire, 2.0mm
Sunniest: Rostherne, 10.6hrs*

Sun and moon

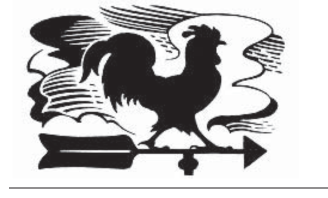
For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.48
Sun sets: 21.06
Moon rises: 18.09
Moon sets: 03.34 Fri
Full moon: June 4

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:20-03:50
Belfast	22:18-04:23
Birmingham	21:49-04:20
Cardiff	21:49-04:30
Exeter	21:47-04:35
Glasgow	22:19-04:08
Liverpool	21:59-04:19
London	21:37-04:18
Manchester	21:56-04:15
Newcastle	22:03-04:04
Norwich	21:37-04:06
Penzance	21:52-04:46
Sheffield	21:53-04:13

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



The recent run of largely warm sunshine and lack of rain has been good news for bees. As an old folklore saying goes: "When bees to distance wing their flight,/ Days are warm and skies are bright."

The folklore goes on to warn that if bees make shorter flights from their hives, then stormy weather is sure to come.

An intriguing study in 2015 found that honeybees work extra hard in the days before rainy weather arrives. Researchers tagged 300 bees with tiny radio-tracking monitors to follow their flights and found that the bees flew further and spent more time foraging in the days before a storm swept in. They also worked longer hours, labouring far later in the evenings than usual. This seemed to back up the idea that bees can stockpile their food if stormy weather threatens, so they work overtime to bring in extra supplies. This all makes sense, because bees struggle to fly in high winds and in rain.

This wasn't simply a case of bees avoiding overcast skies, because they return to their colonies before rain even when there is no obvious cloud development.

Another study backed up another piece of folklore, that bees become more aggressive as bad weather approaches, which many beekeepers experience. The behaviour of honeybees was recorded from the number of stings the bees made in an artificial target made of leather. Over a three-month study period, the behaviour of the bees was highly dependent on the weather including factors such as temperature, wind, sunshine and atmospheric pressure.

Bees are so sensitive they may even sense solar storms, which disrupt their ability to find their way home. According to a study in 2014, honeybees use the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate between food sources and their hives, and this navigation may become more important the further they are from home. Natural fluctuations in the magnetic fields caused by solar flares or storms on the sun can disrupt this homing ability.

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Sport

Cornwall kid with eyes on Masters

Harry Hall tells **Rick Broadbent** about Las Vegas, facial hair and his golfing idol



STEVE DYKES/GETTY IMAGES



Hall, now based in Las Vegas, below left, is hoping to complete a unique grand slam started by his idol Barnes, below

Harry Hall is a different sort of golfer. With his manicured moustache and a flat-cap homage to a player from the Roaring Twenties, the Las Vegas resident says that he is learning the game backwards. Going forwards, he has one main aim. "I'd be happy if West Cornwall Golf Club had all four majors."

Currently, they have three thanks to "Long" Jim Barnes, who won two US PGA Championships, the US Open and the Open Championship between 1916 and 1925, which leaves Hall dreaming of winning the Masters.

The 25-year-old from Camborne in Cornwall is playing his rookie season on the PGA Tour, but believes that he will "definitely" be in the 2025 Ryder Cup and that he could even make the one in September if he wins in the coming weeks.

On Sunday he came close. In pole position to secure the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial after an opening-round 62, he squandered a lead, bogeyed the last and is still licking his wounds. "If you'd have given me tied third, 162 FedEx Cup points and 500 grand before, I'd have bitten your hand off," he says. "But I lost the tournament. On Sunday, I was really unhappy. Yesterday, I was deflated. Today the bad is definitely outweighing the good."

He is ploughing an unusual furrow. When West Cornwall alumnus Phil Rowe moved from a coaching role at Stanford to the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, the path was paved for Hall to join him on a scholarship. "I could not go to Stanford academically, but I went to UNLV and they had the best facilities. I'd never been to America before, but I love it. Outside the three miles of craziness, Vegas is normal and the community is amazing; if you're doing well the whole city gets behind you. It's good to be different. I travel around and one place is pretty much the same as the next, but if you're in Vegas you know it."



He is getting married to his fiancée Jordan in December, has two dogs including a Goldendoodle with its own Instagram account, and has MGM Resorts among some nice corporate partners. "I get looked after," he says. "If you live here you would not want to go to the Strip twice a week on your own dime."

Cornwall to Vegas is a route less travelled in golf, but Hall is tethered to his roots, as shown when his mother Facetimed him at the weekend and duly showed him views of Camborne. And it was back at West Cornwall GC, overlooking St Ives Bay, where he was inspired by Rowe's Walker Cup bag in the clubhouse.



"Phil was more relatable at the time, but as I take another step up the ladder, I find a reassurance in the fact another 18-year-old flew over here 100 years ago," he says. "Jim Barnes achieved it and he gives me more motivation. Why can a kid from Camborne win the Masters? Because a guy has already won four majors. Is it possible? Yes it is. That's the storyline I'm relating to most over the last couple of years. It's the one that can maybe get me across the line."

If the cap fits. He started wearing it in 2018 because he liked it; but it, too, has become a tribute to Barnes. "There's lot of photos of him wearing similar 100 years ago."

The moustache? "Well, my dad had some pretty extravagant facial hair over the years and ever since I went bald at the age of 23 I had to spice up my game a bit."

Hall played in the 2019 Walker Cup and on the Korn Ferry Tour, before graduating to the PGA Tour last year. A top-ten at the Mexico Open last month showed his promise and he now sits at No 125 in the world rankings despite not having a coach. A breath of fresh air, he is half a million richer but talks enthusiastically of taking Jordan to Camborne last Christmas. "We went out and did Wetherspoons and the White Hart. My life's a bit different now but I'm still the same Harry who used to scooter down to school."

Now he has a three-club rotation in Nevada. "Spanish Trails is like home, my family, and they helped get me a visa to stay in the country after college, TPC Summerlin is my office, and Shadow Creek is where I play some money games."

His strength is his short game, partly because he says West Cornwall never had a driving range and was only a tad over 5,500 yards. "I was never a stickler for hitting balls, I just chipped and putted," he says. "I got to the States and was swinging the driver at 105mph. Taylor Montgomery, who is on Tour with me, was swinging it 130mph and hitting it 75 yards past me. I'm learning the game backwards, from chipping and putting to figuring out how to hit the ball. I've done well to get to 120mph. Last week I was average tee to green and I nearly won the tournament so that shows how good my short game is. If I can be average tee to green for the rest of my life I will have a really good career."

Rowe still gives him advice and will watch him at the RBC Canadian Open next week, but the affable Hall says he has not really had a coach since college. "A load of guys last week seemed to have a lot of coaches," he says.

"Nobody taught me how to chip and putt, which is the best part of my game, but maybe I need a coach tee to green to take it to the next level. Sunday hurt and I'm still trying to figure it all out."

Olympic medal winner and revered coach McFarlane dies at 63

Athletics
Rick Broadbent

Tributes have been paid to the Commonwealth champion and Olympic silver-medal winner Mike McFarlane, who has died at the age of 63.

The hugely popular Great Britain sprinter later became a coach and helped the multiple medal winners Tony Jarrett and John Regis before nurturing a new generation of talent that included Jodie Williams and Desiree Henry.

For many he will be best remembered for the dramatic 200m final at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982. On that occasion both McFarlane and Allan Wells clocked 20.43sec. "McFarlane is running the race of his life," David Coleman said on the TV commentary. The race was declared a dead heat, with the odd sight of the duo sharing top spot on the podium. "They call the Commonwealths the Friendly Games but the race that day was fierce," McFarlane recalled.

The Hackney-based star was also part of the Great Britain 4x100m team, along with Elliot Bunney, Regis and Linford Christie, that took a silver medal behind the United States at the 1988 Olympics. Four years earlier he was fifth in the Olympic 100m final won by Carl Lewis. McFarlane had first gone to the Olympics in 1980.

Daley Thompson, the double Olympic decathlon champion, tweeted: "Sad day as I lost another friend, Mike McFarlane. Faster than me, played cards better than me, if only he'd had my good looks! 82 Comm Games his finest moment. My thoughts and love are with your family and friends Mike. RIP buddy."

Katharine Merry, the Olympic 400m bronze-medal winner, said: "A wonderful coach and a super athlete. How sad. No age at 63. Always a smiling face. He will be missed."

His former club, Newham & Essex Beagles, said in a statement: "His legacy as a sprinter will continue to motivate aspiring athletes for generations to come.

"Moreover, Mike's subsequent career as a coach has been equally remarkable. His passion for nurturing young talents and imparting his extensive knowledge and experience to others made him a revered figure in the field of sports coaching."



McFarlane, left, and Wells in 1982

Married with a son, McFarlane's other medals included a European indoor 60m gold in 1985, Commonwealth 100m bronze in 1986 and European relay bronze the same year. He was also the European junior champion over 200m in 1979.

Ripon
Rob Wright

2.20 Pretty Crystal
2.50 Sidney's Son
3.20 Tele Red
3.50 Knightswood
4.20 Nigwa (nap)
4.50 Lily In The Jungle
5.22 Hurstwood

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: no advantage — **Sky Sports Racing**

2.20 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,711: 6f) (10)

1	(2)	0 **AMAYRETTO** 12 T Easterby 9-2	D Allan
2	(10)	**BAYNOONA** D M Simcock 9-2	H Turner
3	(3)	**BRANDAISY** R Fahey 9-2	C Murtagh
4	(9)	**FAST LOVE** T Easterby 9-2	JP Sullivan
5	(1)	2 **MAKING DREAMS** 17 K R Burke 9-2	H Shaw
6	(4)	22 **MELISENDE** 24 Miss A Murphy 9-2	Jason Watson
7	(8)	**PRETTY CRYSTAL** R Fahey 9-2	D Nolan
8	(5)	23 **SNAFIYA** 23 (P,BF) G Boughey 9-2	J Hart
9	(6)	**TIOMAN BAY** K Ryan 9-2	A Mullen
10	(7)	302 **TOKYO DRIFT** 12 D Loughnane 9-2	K Stott

11-4 Snafiya, 10-3 Tokyo Drift, 11-2 Pretty Crystal, 6-1 others.

Rob Wright's choice: Pretty Crystal, whose dam was a group three winner, appeals **Dangers** Tokyo Drift, Snafiya

2.50 Maiden Stakes (£4,711: 1m) (6)

1	(1)	265 **GOLD GUY** 16 (B) D & N Barron 3-9-5	B Robinson
2	(2)	20-23 **INDIANA BE** 28 (BF) E Bethell 3-9-5	C Rodriguez
3	(3)	66- **MASS CONSUMPTION** 230 J O'Keeffe 3-9-5	A Breslin (3)
4	(6)	0- **RIBBLE ROUSER** 248 T Easterby 3-9-5	D Allan
5	(5)	00-22 **SIDNEY'S SON** 24 N Tinkler 3-9-5	F McManoman
6	(4)	60 **RAJAWAIL** 16 (T) B Rothwell 3-8-12	A Jary (7)

10-11 Indiana Be, 9-4 Sidney's Son, 4-1 Gold Guy, 16-1 others.

Wright choice: Sidney's Son again ran well at Newcastle; he can gain a deserved success **Danger** Indian Be

3.20 Handicap (£4,711: 1m 2f) (7)

1	(2)	0-600 **COSMOS RAJ** 12 (P,CD) D O'Meara 5-9-11	Jason Watson
2	(7)	1322- **FULFILLED** 236 (BF) D M Simcock 4-9-10	H Turner
3	(4)	206-2 **BILLY ROBERTS** 20 (CD) Simon Whitaker 10-9-9	P Dennis
4	(6)	0-305 **GOLDEN MELODY** 30 (D) T Easterby 5-9-9	D Allan
5	(1)	0-052 **TELE RED** 11 (D) K R Burke 6-9-8	A Breslin (3)
6	(5)	006-3 **GHOST RIDER** 11 G Tuer 5-9-5	O Stammers
7	(3)	36063 **LIKE A LION** 28 (P) T Easterby 4-9-2	JP Sullivan

10-3 Fulfilled, 4-1 Tele Red, Billy Roberts, 6-1 Ghost Rider, Golden Melody, 7-1 Cosmos Raj, 15-2 Like A Lion.

Wright choice: Tele Red runs off the same mark as when beaten a head over course and distance **Danger** Fulfilled

3.50 Handicap (£4,711: 1m 4f) (5)

1	(5)	130-6 **FRANKENDAEL** 16 (H) T Easterby 4-9-10	D Allan
2	(4)	40-04 **KNIGHTSWOOD** 8 (D) Charlie Johnston 4-9-10	J Fanning
3	(2)	62-03 **HAARAR** 26 (V) M Bell 4-9-9	J Hart
4	(1)	54-54 **GASTRONOMY** 55 (BF) P Kirby 4-9-9	K Stott
5	(3)	000-0 **BAMBOO BAY** 24 (T,V,D) P Kirby 5-8-8	A Mullen

5-4 Haarar, 7-2 Gastronomy, 4-1 Knightswood, Frankendael, 14-1 Bamboo Bay.

Wright choice: Knightswood will appreciate this return to further after a fair fourth at Ayr **Danger** Haarar

4.20 Handicap (£9,277: 1m 2f) (8)

1	(2)	04010 **IMPERIAL SANDS** 14 (B) A Watson 5-9-9	T Fisher (5)
2	(3)	-0363 **BARYSHNIKOV** 3 (CD) D & N Barron 7-9-8	B Robinson
3	(1)	42-21 **PISANELLO** 18 D O'Meara 6-9-6	Jason Watson
4	(5)	025-1 **COCKALORUM** 42 (CD) R Fell 8-9-1	J Hart
5	(7)	15-52 **NIGWA** 18 (CD) E Bethell 4-8-13	C Rodriguez
6	(4)	14-46 **TARBAAN** 13 (P,T,D) Miss A Murphy 4-8-13	K Stott
7	(8)	-6020 **SOCIETY RED** 24 (P,CD) R Fahey 9-8-11	P Hanagan
8	(6)	1-400 **POET'S DAWN** 18 (CD) T Easterby 8-8-4	JP Sullivan

11-4 Nigwa, 3-1 Baryshnikov, 4-1 Pisanello, 9-2 Cockalorum, 10-1 others.

Wright choice: Nigwa was beaten a neck by My Little Queens in a strong race at Hamilton **Dangers** Pisanello, Tarbaan

4.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,711: 6f) (9)

1	(6)	-0001 **LILY IN THE JUNGLE** 11 (P,CD) P Kirby 9-12(6ex)	K Stott
2	(4)	66151 **WE'RENOTREALLYHERE** 21 (P,D) J J Quinn 9-9	J Hart
3	(2)	0-252 **CAESARS PEARL** 6 Craig Lidster 9-9	Joanna Mason
4	(3)	031-5 **AZUCENA** 31 Mrs A Duffield 9-8	P Hanagan
5	(1)	5-133 **ANOTHER BAAR** 27 (CD) A Keatley 9-8	J Fanning
6	(7)	040-0 **RUN CMC** 21 G Tuer 9-7	O Stammers
7	(9)	00-5 **CAWTHORNES GEM** 28 T Easterby 9-2	D Allan
8	(5)	43-65 **ROYAL MARINER** 32 (D) Ewan Whillans 9-2	C Rodriguez
9	(8)	6523- **GLENDOWN** 321 (P,BF) T Easterby 8-13	JP Sullivan

10-3 We'renotreallyhere, 7-2 Another Baar, 9-2 Lily In The Jungle, 6-1 Glendown, 10-1 Cawthornes Gem, Run Cmc, Caesars Pearl, 14-1 others.

Wright choice: Lily In The Jungle can claim a fourth win at this track **Dangers** Another Baar, We'renotreallyhere

5.22 Handicap (£3,664: 6f) (11)

1	(1)	60022 **MACHO PRIDE** 13 (BF,D) R Carr 5-9-10	JP Sullivan
2	(10)	00-05 **HURSTWOOD** 17 (CD) P Niven 6-9-9	Mark Winn (5)
3	(3)	430-6 **ROUND THE ISLAND** 17 (CD) Simon Whitaker 10-9-9	P Dennis
4	(4)	32032 **GISELLES IZZY** 8 (BF,D) I Jardine 4-9-8	A Mullen
5	(8)	606-0 **GINATO** 58 (B,CD) R Fell 5-9-5	J Peate (3)
6	(2)	0-000 **BRIDES BAY** 7 (B) S England 4-9-5	J Hart
7	(6)	130-0 **FLAVIUS TITUS** 40 (B,CD) D Brooke 8-9-4	W Pyle (7)
8	(9)	340-0 **QUERCUS** 12 (P,D) Mrs A Duffield 6-9-4	P Hanagan
9	(5)	36-00 **DREAMCASING** 17 (B) G Tuer 5-9-2	O Stammers
10	(7)	0-030 **GULLANE ONE** 12 (P,T,CD) T Easterby 8-9-2	D Allan
11	(11)	00-00 **POINT OF WOODS** 12 (CD) Miss T Jackson 10-9-1	K Stott

5-2 Giselles Izzy, 10-3 Macho Pride, 5-1 Round The Island, Hurstwood, 10-1 Gullane One, 12-1 Dreamcasing, Flavius Titus, 20-1 Quercus.

Wright choice: Hurstwood shaped as though returning to form when fifth at Catterick **Dangers** Giselles Izzy, Macho Pride

Carlisle
Rob Wright

5.50 Mauna Loa
6.20 Charged Up
6.50 Keeponbelieving
7.25 Iron Lion
7.55 World Without Love
8.30 Holloway Girl
9.00 Annandale

Going: good, good to firm in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

5.50 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £6,750: 5f) (9)

1	(1)	30 **BELLARCHI** 13 G Tuer 9-2	P J McDonald
2	(4)	0 **DEAR MARY** 12 T Easterby 9-2	D Fentiman
3	(6)	**IRRESISTIBLE FORCE** A Keatley 9-2	D Costello
4	(9)	62 **LADY SHOWCASING** 17 Charlie Johnston 9-2	F Norton
5	(7)	4 **MAUNA LOA** 12 R Fahey 9-2	Oisin Orr
6	(5)	**MISSTERIOUS** K Ryan 9-2	T Eaves
7	(3)	**STRAWBERRY SPRITZ** Gemma Tutty 9-2	C Beasley
8	(2)	**CATTON LADY** M & D Easterby 9-0	B Garritty
9	(8)	**PETRA CELERA** K R Burke 9-0	C Lee

11-4 Mauna Loa, 3-1 Lady Showcasing, 4-1 Bellarchi, 5-1 Petra Celera, 7-1 Missterious, 16-1 Irresistible Force, 20-1 Strawberry Spritz, 25-1 others.

6.20 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (9)

1	(5)	41 **ARC SHADOWFAX** 10 (D) S Spencer 9-9	Dale Swift
2	(7)	21 **DAWN CHARGER** 20 K R Burke 9-6	C Lee
3	(4)	34 **CHARGED UP** 43 (BF) O Pears 9-4	C Hardie
4	(1)	**HOWARD'S CHOICE** A Keatley 9-4	D Costello
5	(9)	**PEACEFUL PROTEST** T Easterby 9-4	D Fentiman
6	(6)	50 **RISING FORCE** 12 J Tate 9-4	P J McDonald
7	(8)	**STAR OF LAZISE** Gemma Tutty 9-4	R Scott
8	(2)	6 **KEEP WARM** 33 M & D Easterby 9-2	B Garritty
9	(3)	4 **NIGHT SAFARI** 10 Charlie Johnston 9-2	F Norton

5-4 Dawn Charger, 4-1 Charged Up, 9-2 Arc Shadowfax, 8-1 Night Safari, 10-1 Rising Force, 20-1 Howard's Choice, 25-1 Star Of Lazise, others.

6.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,402: 1m 1f) (12)

1	(6)	4-323 **KEEPONBELIEVING** 13 Liam Bailey 9-11	B Garritty
2	(3)	-4221 **OBAMA ARMY** 15 Jack Channon 9-10	C Beasley
3	(5)	0-504 **MICKEY MONGOOSE** 13 Charlie Johnston 9-10	F Norton
4	(2)	-0425 **HIDDEN CODE** 12 O Pears 9-9	G Lee
5	(10)	3-050 **KOHANA BREEZE** 15 (B) A Watson 9-7	Georgia Dobie (3)
6	(8)	24316 **NA SCOITEAR** 21 Phillip Makin 9-7	R Scott
7	(1)	6-40 **PURPLE LADY** 16 D Loughnane 9-6	C Lee
8	(4)	500-5 **STAR START** 24 (P) R Menzies 9-4	P Mulrennan
9	(9)	0650 **KILLING EVE** 13 K Scott 8-12	S Gray
10	(11)	50-52 **RIBKANA** 20 (P) T Easterby 8-11	D Fentiman
11	(7)	0-006 **ANA EMARAATY** 17 (P) J Goldie 8-9	C Hardie
12	(12)	00-06 **MISS RAINDROP** 58 T Waggott 8-9	T Eaves

11-4 Obama Army, 5-1 Na Scoitear, Ribkana, 6-1 Keeponbelieving, Hidden Code, 8-1 Mickey Mongoose, 12-1 Purple Lady, 14-1 Kohana Breeze.

7.25 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 1m 1f) (11)

1	(8)	0 **CARNIVAL TIMES** 27 I Jardine 4-9-11	G Lee
2	(7)	00- **ALHAMBRA PALACE** 169 W Haggas 3-9-4	D Costello
3	(4)	2 **FLYING FRONTIER** 76 J Tate 3-9-4	C Lee
4	(1)	6-2 **GOLDEN MOVE** 24 R Fahey 3-9-4	Oisin Orr
5	(2)	3 **IRON LION** 24 D O'Meara 3-9-4	D Tudhope
6	(9)	3 **RAMPANT** 27 Ewan Whillans 3-9-4	R Scott
7	(10)	5 **SEA GIRT** 30 I Jardine 3-9-4	P Mulrennan
8	(5)	0 **THE DARIEN SCHEME** 10 J Goldie 3-9-4	S Gray
9	(3)	**THE MAGA KING** J Goldie 3-9-4	Amie Waugh (5)
10	(6)	**MAMBO SUNSET** James Horton 3-8-13	P J McDonald
11	(11)	232-3 **THERAPIST** 27 A Balding 3-8-13	D Probert

9-4 Therapist, 7-2 Flying Frontier, 4-1 Golden Move, 5-1 Iron Lion, 10-1 Alhambra Palace, Mambo Sunset, 12-1 Rampant, 50-1 others.

7.55 Handicap (£6,542: 1m 6f) (6)

1	(1)	-1413 **NOTIMEFORANOTHER** 32 (D) K Dalgleish 4-9-9	B Garritty
2	(6)	50-02 **DETECTIVE** 10 (C) D Sayer 7-9-7	G Lee
3	(5)	5-230 **WORLD WITHOUT LOVE** 18 (D) Charlie Johnston 4-9-2	F Norton
4	(4)	05-04 **GRAND CANAL** 27 J Goldie 6-8-13	P Mulrennan
5	(3)	0-045 **GLASSES UP** 24 (D) R M Smith 8-8-11	P Mathers
6	(2)	56562 **HIGHLIGHTER** 12 Gemma Tutty 4-8-10	C Beasley

9-4 Detective, 5-2 Notimeforanother, 4-1 Highlighter, 7-1 World Without Love, 8-1 Glasses Up, 10-1 Grand Canal.

8.30 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,402: 7f) (9)

1	(7)	00-65 **THE KING'S MEN** 49 (W,P) M Dods 9-11	C Beasley
2	(9)	5-004 **THE MUFFIN MAN** 16 Jessica Macey 9-10	K Schofield (5)
3	(3)	5-421 **B ASSOCIATES** 17 (D) J Goldie 9-7	P Mulrennan
4	(1)	00-52 **HOLLOWAY GIRL** 52 K Ryan 9-4	S Gray
5	(2)	00-50 **EYEOFTHEBEHOLDER** 35 (B,T) T Easterby 9-4	D Fentiman
6	(6)	-0603 **DRESDEN GREEN** 10 R Carr 9-1	T Eaves
7	(4)	0243- **BERNIE THE BEAR** 212 (P) R Fahey 9-1	Oisin Orr
8	(8)	000-4 **GEORGE LODGE** 17 (V) J Camacho 9-0	G Lee
9	(5)	00066 **LADY LOVELESS** 28 (P) Phillip Makin 9-0	R Scott

7-4 B Associates, 7-2 Holloway Girl, 6-1 Bernie The Bear, 8-1 others.

9.00 Handicap (£3,402: 1m 3f) (6)

1	(4)	02-02 **BELLE OF ANNANDALE** 27 K Dalgleish 4-9-11	B Garritty
2	(5)	000-5 **ANNANDALE** 12 I Jardine 5-9-10	G Lee
3	(6)	5-406 **GRACES QUEST** 9 (CD) J Goldie 5-9-8	P Mulrennan
4	(2)	52644 **BILLY BATHGATE** 9 Ewan Whillans 7-9-3	R Scott
5	(1)	50563 **COCONUT BAY** 9 T Davidson 4-8-10	C Hardie
6	(3)	500-0 **ROBIN GOODFELLOW** J48 T Waggott 4-8-4	F Norton

13-8 Belle Of Annandale, 11-4 Coconut Bay, 9-2 Graces Quest, 6-1 Billy Bathgate, 8-1 Annandale, 25-1 Robin Goodfellow.

Blinkered first time: Lingfield 2.12 Hawkes Bay, Bodega Nights; 3.42 Toronado Grey; 5.12 Smith. **Market Rasen** 6.40 Belvedere Blast. **Ripon** 5.22 Dreamcasing. **Yarmouth** 5.00 Cubanista

Lingfield Park
Rob Wright

2.12 Struck Gold
2.42 Another Thought
3.12 Victors Dream
3.42 Proud Fairy
4.12 Rose Light
4.42 Mr Freedom
5.12 Shibuya Song

Going: aw: standard; turf: good to firm, good in places — **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

2.12 Handicap (AW: 3-Y-O: £3,245: 6f) (12)

1	(10)	4000- **LAHINA BAY** 218 R Cook & J Bridger 9-9	R Clutterbuck
2	(5)	25605 **SAVANNAH SMILES** 44 (H,P) T Ward 9-9	S M Levey
3	(3)	63-05 **CARRY ON AITCH** 16 P McBride 9-8	Rossa Ryan
4	(12)	34400 **REGAL GLORY** 9 (C) Mrs L Mongan 9-5	L Morris
5	(11)	-3505 **ASIAN QUEEN** 20 (P) R Cowell 9-5	H Doyle
6	(9)	00-02 **STRUCK GOLD** 134 J Butler 9-4	D Keenan
7	(2)	400-6 **TRANQUILLITY** 55 (T) H Morrison 9-3	R Hornby
8	(8)	5-050 **RICARDO OFWORTHING** 66 S Dow 9-1	J Mitchell
9	(1)	00-50 **HAWKES BAY** 10 (B) A West 9-1	S B Kirrane (3)
10	(4)	-0400 **KAY CERAAR** 45 (P) A Carroll 9-0	N Callan
11	(7)	-0050 **BODEGA NIGHTS** 15 (B) S Kirk 9-0	C Bennett
12	(6)	00-00 **HAVANA HEAT** 84 (BF) C Hills 9-0	S Osborne

4-1 Struck Gold, 5-1 Tranquillity, 11-2 Havana Heat, 6-1 Asian Queen, 7-1 Carry On Aitch, 8-1 Regal Glory, Savannah Smiles, 14-1 Ricardo Ofworthing.

2.42 Novice Stakes (AW: £4,104: 6f) (7)

1	(1)	31- **GARNER** 380 (D) A Watson 3-9-11	H Doyle
2	(2)	31 **ANOTHER THOUGHT** 23 (CD) E J-Houghton 3-9-6	G Downing
3	(7)	**PEARL BEAUTY** J15 Joe Tizzard 4-9-5	A Keeley (5)
4	(3)	0 **CENTRE BACK** 43 S Kirk 3-9-2	C Bennett
5	(4)	**MISS REQUINTO** P Chamings 3-8-13	R Clutterbuck
6	(5)	**PORT MEADOW** R Hughes 3-8-13	Doubtful
7	(6)	00 **PASSION TANGO** 119 R Guest 3-8-11	L Morris

4-6 Garner, 11-8 Another Thought, 20-1 Miss Requinto, 33-1 Passion Tango, 50-1 Pearl Beauty, Centre Back.

3.12 Handicap (AW: 3-Y-O: £3,245: 5f) (10)

1	(5)	33114 **DOCTOR MOZART** 36 (B,D) P Evans 9-11	S Osborne
2	(2)	066 **GET OFF ME** 19 T Dascombe 9-9	L Keniry
3	(8)	-3405 **MISSING YOU** 35 (P) R Hughes 9-9	F Marsh
4	(4)	32421 **IMPERIOUSITY** 23 (P,CD) A Perrett 9-9	J Crowley
5	(3)	0602 **VICTORS DREAM** 9 M Botti 9-9	N Callan
6	(7)	100-6 **DON'T FIGHT IT** 29 (D) S Woodman 9-9	J Mitchell
7	(6)	00012 **BYEFORNOW** 23 (P,C,D) K P De Foy 9-5	G Eddery (7)
8	(1)	5600- **ZING UP** 244 T Ward 9-1	S M Levey
9	(10)	000-4 **REWILDING** 20 R Cowell 8-9	H Doyle
10	(9)	0-005 **KWIZ** 23 M Pattinson 8-9	W Carson

11-4 Imperiousity, 7-2 Byefornow, 4-1 Victors Dream, 6-1 Doctor Mozart, 10-1 Missing You, Rewilding, 14-1 Get Off Me, Zing Up.

3.42 Claiming Stakes (AW: £4,104: 1m) (11)

1	(10)	2326/ **UNILATERALISM** 548 A Watson 4-10-2	H Doyle
2	(11)	-1330 **BRAINS** 61 (B,CD) J Butler 7-9-13	R Coakley
3	(8)	6130- **TORONADO GREY** 253 (B,CD) G L Moore 5-9-11	T P Queally
4	(3)	0-164 **BUSINESS** 35 (H) S Curran 6-9-9	Billy Loughnane (3)
5	(6)	10-36 **LA RAV** 29 (CD) L Carter 9-9-7	P Bradley (3)
6	(9)	06645 **GAME NATION** 31 (T) B Barr 4-9-6	W Carson
7	(5)	4130- **PROUD FAIRY** 231 G L Moore 4-9-4	R Clutterbuck
8	(1)	4-140 **DULCET SPIRIT** 29 (C) B Johnson 4-9-2	Kaiya Fraser (7)
9	(7)	0-0 **LUNA LIGHT** 120 L Allan 4-9-1	D Keenan
10	(4)	65054 **STARRY EYES** 17 (CD) B Johnson 7-9-1	N Callan
11	(2)	-6000 **CONGRESBURY** 8 (B) R Hannon 3-9-0	Alec Voikhansky (5)

11-4 Business, 3-1 Brains, 7-2 Unilateralism, 7-1 Toronado Grey, 10-1 La Rav, 12-1 Proud Fairy, 14-1 Congresbury, 20-1 Dulcet Spirit.

4.12 Handicap (£4,083: 1m 4f) (7)

1	(5)	40-10 **SAINTE COLETTE** 13 (P,D) H Candy 4-9-9	Doubtful
2	(2)	22-30 **ROSE LIGHT** 13 (H) J Portman 4-9-9	R Hornby
3	(1)	4-344 **RECHERCHER** 17 (P) G Baker 4-9-9	Billy Loughnane (3)
4	(3)	40104 **STAR FROM AFARHH** 21 E Walker 4-9-8	R Coakley
5	(4)	32013 **DAPHNE MAY** 47 (BF) G L Moore 5-9-3	T P Queally
6	(7)	-2426 **CRAZY MAISIE** 23 M Hoad 4-9-0	H Doyle
7	(6)	/0-06 **CIRRUS** 29 (T) M Harris 5-8-7	S Osborne

7-4 Daphne May, 3-1 Rechercher, 9-2 Star From Afarhh, 6-1 Rose Light, 7-1 Crazy Maisie, 16-1 Cirrus.

4.42 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 4f) (7)

1	(6)	06-02 **MANOR PARK** 38 (T,D) B Barr 8-9-10	W Carson
2	(7)	004-1 **MR FREEDOM** J60 (P,D) Miss S West 4-9-10	T Whelan
3	(3)	00-56 **ELMEJOR** J18 (P) K Jewell 7-9-9	L Morris
4	(5)	52-53 **THIS ONES FOR FRED** 29 (V) P Evans 5-9-9	S Osborne
5	(2)	-0005 **ANGEL ON HIGH** 21 (T) A Wintle 6-9-6	Billy Loughnane (3)
6	(1)	24-35 **ICONIC MOVER** 22 P Phelan 5-8-9	A Keeley (5)
7	(4)	53403 **PLEDGE OF PEACE** 8 (V) P McEntee 6-8-9	Josephine Gordon

11-10 Mr Freedom, 7-2 Manor Park, 6-1 This Ones For Fred, 8-1 Pledge Of Peace, 10-1 Iconic Mover, 16-1 Angel On High, 20-1 Elmejor.

5.12 Handicap (£4,083: 2m) (8)

1	(1)	/04-0 **NOAHTHIRTYTWORED** J8 (T) A West 7-9-11	S B Kirrane (3)
2	(6)	606-3 **DOWNSMAN** 24 (V) J Boyle 5-9-9	N Callan
3	(3)	2110- **AT THE DOUBLE** 250 (V,D) Sir M Prescott 4-9-8	L Morris
4	(7)	250-2 **RUSSIAN RUMOUR** 41 (P,D) J Portman 6-9-8	R Hornby
5	(8)	2325- **SHIBUYA SONG** 232 (BF) R Phillips 4-9-8	Kaiya Fraser (7)
6	(4)	006-1 **CHERRY COLA** 8 Miss S West 7-9-4(4ex)	Rose Dawes (5)
7	(5)	-3150 **SMITH** 27 (B,D) Mrs L Richards 7-9-2	Billy Loughnane (3)
8	(2)	15333 **EASY EQUATION** 44 (P,D) J S Moore 5-8-7	A Keeley (5)

11-4 Cherry Cola, 4-1 Russian Rumour, 5-1 At The Double, 6-1 Easy Equation, 7-1 Shibuya Song, 8-1 Downsman, 10-1 Noahthirtytwored, 14-1 Smith.

Market Rasen
Rob Wright

5.40 Woodie Flash
6.10 Carrarea
6.40 Double Click
7.10 Kihavah
7.45 Friary Rock
8.15 Coup De Pinceau
8.45 Hot Fizzy Lizzy

Going: good — **Racing TV**

5.40 Maiden Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 5f) (5)

1	222-2 **BASFORD** 13 (P,BF) J Candlish 6-11-2	Sean Quinlan
2	FP51- **JOHNNY DOGS** 60 S Corbett 6-11-2	N Moscrop
3	41- **WOODIE FLASH** 116 O Murphy 5-11-2	S Bowen
4	050- **MATOURY** 53 (T) M Sowersby 4-10-10	A Anderson (5)
5	PP- **ARTEMIS SKY** 39 M Young 5-10-9	Mr Murray Dodd (7)

4-5 Basford, 6-4 Woodie Flash, 8-1 Johnny Dogs, 50-1 Matoury, 66-1 Artemis Sky.

6.10 Novices' Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 1f) (7)

1	/23-1 **CARRAREA** 20 (T,CD) M Walford 6-11-7	J Hamilton
2	4PP/5 **BREAKING RECORDS** 13 (T) M Barnes 8-11-0	C Rabbitt (7)
3	600/ **ROGAN'S FANCY** F76 Sara Ender 7-11-0	P Armson (3)
4	5-4 **SAINT JAGUEN** 19 (T) F O'Brien 5-11-0	P Brennan
5	UR-6 **SMART CONNECTION** 20 M Chapman 6-11-0	A Clarke (7)
6	6 **WURLITZER** 24 (P) A King 5-11-0	T Bellamy
7	**OUTSMART** F16 O Pears 4-10-9	B Hughes

4-7 Carrarea, 4-1 Saint Jaguen, 5-1 Outsmart, 8-1 Wurlitzer, 66-1 others.

6.40 Handicap Hurdle (£4,489: 2m 1f) (7)

1	531-1 **DOUBLE CLICK** 23 J Snowden 5-12-0	G Sheehan
2	4304- **KOLISI** 258 (W,P,T) D Pipe 5-11-13	J Tudor
3	020-P **MR COLDSTONE** 8 (P) C & A Pogson 7-11-11	C J Todd
4	304P- **BELVEDERE BLAST** 151 (B) A Keatley 5-11-7	H Brooke
5	246-3 **LENEBANE** 20 (P,T) R Menzies 5-11-6	B Hughes
6	5000- **IHEARDUPAINTHOUSES** 62 Paula Smith 6-10-3	D McMenamin
7	006-2 **MORE TO FOLLOW** 16 (H,BF) D Bourke 6-10-2	Sean Quinlan

5-4 Double Click, 4-1 Lenebane, 9-2 Kolisi, 8-1 More To Follow, 10-1 others.

7.10 Handicap Hurdle (£10,562: 2m 5f) (10)

1	05-5P **J'AI FROID** 8 (P) L Morgan 10-11-13	L Dobb (7)
2	323-2 **ASHINGTON** 18 (V) M Walford 8-11-12	J Hamilton
3	0P3-6 **RESTITUTION** 19 (V) A King 5-11-10	T Bellamy
4	FP34- **KIHAVAH** F15 (T) A Keatley 6-11-10	B Hughes
5	F121- **TARDREE** 232 (H,T) L Morgan 9-11-6	P Cowley (3)
6	1005- **BON RETOUR** 100 (D) M Walford 8-11-5	D McMenamin
7	2P4-6 **SHALLOW RIVER** 23 F O'Brien 7-11-4	P Brennan
8	653-5 **INCA PRINCE** 13 Ruth Jefferson 5-11-4	Sean Quinlan
9	35-42 **MIDNIGHT GINGER** 4 (C) Andrew Martin 7-11-4	J Martin (7)
10	160-F **MULBERRY HILL** 18 (T,BF) F O'Brien 7-11-2	J Hogan (5)

10-3 Kihavah, 5-1 Tardree, 6-1 Ashington, 7-1 Mulberry Hill, others.

7.45 Handicap Chase (£5,281: 2m 3f) (5)

1	142-1 **FRIARY ROCK** 14 (P) L Morgan 8-12-0	B Hughes
2	P400- **RESERVE TANK** 40 (T,V) P Bowen 9-11-13	S Bowen
3	/4P-P **CILLUIRID** 26 (T,D) T Easterby 9-11-9	J Hamilton
4	5550- **DA VINCI HAND** 56 J E Foster 8-10-13	H Brooke
5	04-0P **THE WHITE VOLCANO** 3 W Storey 11-10-2	P Armson (3)

4-11 Friary Rock, 7-1 Reserve Tank, 8-1 Cilluirid, 10-1 Da Vinci Hand, 20-1 The White Volcano.

8.15 Handicap Chase (£6,601: 3m 4f) (5)

1	0P-52 **COUP DE PINCEAU** 10 (B,D) Syd Hosie 11-12-0	B Morgan (7)
2	P30-0 **D'JANGO** 6 (T,V) D Pipe 10-11-6	J Tudor
3	1-231 **VICTORY ECHO** 14 (T) M Barnes 10-10-13	C Rabbitt (7)
4	445-3 **ZOFFALEE** 8 (T) M Sowersby 8-10-12	A Anderson (5)
5	451F- **FIRST CLASS RETURN** 51 (B) O Murphy 10-10-7	S Bowen

6-5 Victory Echo, 4-1 Coup De Pinceau, 5-1 First Class Return, 6-1 Zoffalee, D'jango.

8.45 NH Flat Race (£2,722: 2m 1f) (5)

1	40- **CAVE BLEU** 52 J Mackie 5-11-2	J Hamilton
2	3 **BUCK OF MAINE** 18 P Bowen 4-10-11	Doubtful
3	0-1 **HOT FIZZY LIZZY** 17 D Skelton 4-10-11	T Durrell (5)
4	**JACK THE LAW** C Hobson 4-10-11	B Poste
5	F31- **THE GAMBLER** 54 M Young 5-10-9	C Hammond

1-5 Hot Fizzy Lizzy, 15-2 The Gambler, 10-1 Jack The Law, 20-1 Cave Bleu.

Yarmouth
Rob Wright

2.00 Arlo's Sunshine
2.30 Inner City
3.00 Trooper Bisdee
3.30 Ghara
4.00 Lady Eros (nb)
4.30 Cancan In The Rain
5.00 Masterclass

Going: good to firm, good in places
Draw: no advantage — **Sky Sports Racing**

2.00 Handicap (£3,768: 1m) (11)

1	(1)	15360 **SIMPLY GORGEOUS** 29 (H,D) P McEntee 4-9-10	O Murphy
2	(7)	03033 **MUDLAHHIM** 9 S Dixon 7-9-9	K O'Neill
3	(4)	6330- **FILLYFUDGE** J186 Miss A Murphy 4-9-8	A Kirby
4	(9)	23100 **TWISTALINE** 40 (V,D) M Appleby 4-9-6	T Ladd
5	(5)	0000/ **ALPINE SPRINGS** 703 (H) Dylan Cunha 5-9-3	B Sayette
6	(6)	05365 **NO DIGGITY** 9 (V,D) J Butler 7-9-2	David Egan
7	(8)	-0060 **ROARING RIVER** 8 (T) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4-9-1	Liam Wright (7)
8	(11)	-0042 **EYES** 23 (D) Jessica Macey 5-9-1	L Edmunds
9	(10)	01453 **ARLO'S SUNSHINE** 8 (CD) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 6-9-1	J P Spencer
10	(3)	20020 **BOLD AND LOYAL** 7 (P,T) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-0	D Muscutt
11	(2)	5000- **AMAL** 313 J R Jenkins 5-9-0	M Ghiani

10-3 Arlo's Sunshine, 7-2 Eyes, 5-1 Mudlahhim, 8-1 Simply Gorgeous, others.

Savethelastdance has ten rivals in Oaks

Savethelastdance, trained by Aidan O'Brien, is a best-priced 5-4 favourite with William Hill to land the Betfred Oaks at Epsom tomorrow.

A 22-length winner of the Cheshire Oaks last month, she will bid to give O'Brien an 11th victory in the fillies' classic, with seven of those successes coming in the past 11 renewals.

Soul Sister, trained by John and Thady Gosden, is next in the betting at 11-4 after her easy success in the Musidora Stakes at York. She will be ridden by Frankie Dettori, while Oisin Murphy takes the mount on her stablemate, Running Lion, who is a 6-1 chance.

2.30 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 7f) (11)

1	(7)	00 **FULLOFBRIGHTIDEAS** 31 C Ellam 9-7	Jefferson Smith
2	(9)	**INNER CITY** C Appleby 9-7	W Buick
3	(6)	**LIGHTNING LEO** A Watson 9-7	H Crouch
4	(11)	33 **MARROOF** 16 R Hannon 9-7	P Dobbs
5	(3)	**MULLAZEM** R Hannon 9-7	J P Spencer
6	(8)	**ODDYSSEY** Patrick Owens 9-7	B Sayette
7	(10)	**QUATRE BRAS** J Chapple-Hyam 9-7	M Ghiani
8	(1)	**ROYAL ARMY** S bin Suroor 9-7	R Kingscote
9	(5)	**SAYEDATY SADATY** A Balding 9-7	O Murphy
10	(2)	**TRAVOLTA** J Ferguson 9-7	D Muscutt
11	(4)	**YA DAR** G Boughey 9-7	T Marquand

7-4 Inner City, 11-2 Marroof, Ya Dar, 7-1 Royal Army, 8-1 Lightning Leo, 10-1 Sayedaty Sadaty, 12-1 Travolta, 14-1 Quatre Bras.

3.00 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 1m 3f 104yd) (12)

1	(4)	-2221 **DAMASCUS STEEL** 3 (B,D) E Dunlop 10-3(6ex)	R Havlin
2	(3)	2-633 **TWILIGHT GUEST** 21 (V) G Margarson 9-9	J F Egan
3	(8)	2405 **BISCOFF JOE** 17 G Kelleway 9-9	T Marquand
4	(9)	00-0 **ROGUE TORNADO** 57 Tom Clover 9-9	David Egan
5	(11)	-0530 **KILCUMMIN** 16 (P) Joseph Parr 9-8	H Burns (3)
6	(5)	000- **LOUGH LEANE** 169 D M Simcock 9-7	J P Spencer
7	(6)	24000 **SILKS GRAPHITE** 2 (T) Darryll Holland 9-6	L Wright (7)
8	(7)	000- **TROOPER BISDEE** 197 Sir M Prescott 9-5	T Hammer Hansen
9	(10)	06-6 **LA ESPANOLA** 37 D Menuisier 9-5	B Sayette
10	(1)	00636 **RAINCLOUD** 2 Alice Haynes 9-2	Shariq Mohd (7)
11	(2)	06-60 **WILPENA POUND** 40 J R Jenkins 8-13	M Ghiani
12	(12)	00-60 **MISS MAISIEPAIGE** 7 (P) C Dunnett 8-9	R Ffrench

11-4 Damascus Steel, 3-1 Trooper Bisdee, 6-1 Twilight Guest, 7-1 others.

3.30 Maiden Stakes (3-Y-O: £5,832: 1m 3f 104yd) (6)

1	(1)	022-0 **GOODFELLA** 57 (T) Patrick Owens 9-7	B Sayette
2	(4)	3 **KING OF THE PLAINS** 20 Charlie Johnston 9-7	O Murphy
3	(5)	6 **LIABLE** 45 Sir M Stoute 9-7	R Kingscote
4	(2)	63 **MYTHICAL GUEST** 13 G Margarson 9-7	J F Egan
5	(6)	**DESEJADA** J Butler 9-2	T Marquand
6	(3)	6-04 **GHARA** 19 J & T Gosden 9-2	A Atzeni

13-8 Ghara, 7-2 King Of The Plains, Goodfella, 6-1 Mythical Guest, 8-1 Liable, 16-1 Desejada.

4.00 Handicap (£5,653: 1m) (8)

1	(4)	50300 **POWER OF DARKNESS** 27 (P,D) C Fellowes 8-9-11	D Muscutt
2	(1)	201-0 **BLING ON THE MUSIC** 54 E Walker 4-9-11	T Marquand
3	(6)	-0435 **UNITED FRONT** 55 (D) M Appleby 6-9-10	W Buick
4	(7)	142-5 **LADY EROS** 19 J & T Gosden 4-9-9	O Murphy
5	(2)	-1006 **KEYSER SOZE** 29 (B,D) R Spencer 9-9-9	A Kirby
6	(8)	51260 **CHIEF'S WILL** 56 (P,D) A Watson 4-9-7	H Crouch
7	(3)	0055- **GODDESS OF FIRE** 222 (P,CD) J Ryan 6-9-1	A Tracey (7)
8	(5)	1560- **TOTAL LOCKDOWN** 226 (H) J Butler 4-9-1	David Egan

3-1 Bling On The Music, 7-2 Lady Eros, 5-1 United Front, 6-1 others.

4.30 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 7f) (8)

1	(8)	6614- **CANCAN IN THE RAIN** 260 (BF,CD) Charlie Johnston 9-11	R Kingscote
2	(5)	020-6 **TARITINO** 42 (D) Miss A Murphy 9-9	S Cherchi
3	(3)	2120- **RED TREASURE** 243 E Dunlop 9-9	O Murphy
4	(2)	01-20 **GIANT** 42 (D) R Spencer 9-9	T Marquand
5	(1)	6345 **HELLO ARTHUR** 33 C Allen 9-4	C Fallon
6	(6)	3-515 **JURYMAN** 21 (D) W Jarvis 9-3	W Buick
7	(7)	2242- **REVOLUCION** 183 Joseph Parr 8-13	H Burns (3)
8	(4)	04-5 **ABRAVAGGIO** 31 G Margarson 8-7	J F Egan

9-4 Cancan In The Rain, 4-1 Revolucion, 9-2 Red Treasure, 15-2 others.

5.00 Handicap (£4,397: 7f) (8)

1	(5)	00054 **PISTOLETTO** 7 (B) J Ryan 6-9-10	A Kirby
2	(3)	05-02 **CRACK REGIMENT** 45 H Spiller 6-9-10	C Fallon
3	(2)	320-5 **FLYING SECRET** 49 E J-Houghton 4-9-10	C Bishop
4	(1)	123-6 **MASTERCLASS** 21 D M Simcock 4-9-8	J P Spencer
5	(8)	5-206 **WISEACRE** 13 (P) A Watson 5-9-8	H Crouch
6	(7)	3006- **DION BAKER** 176 M Wigham 4-9-7	M Ghiani
7	(4)	40-30 **CUBANISTA** 36 (B,CD) Mrs P Sly 4-9-4	S W Kelly
8	(6)	05542 **HARBOUR VISION** 8 (V,D) S Dixon 8-9-4	E Whittington (5)

3-1 Harbour Vision, 7-2 Crack Regiment, 4-1 Wiseacre, 13-2 others.

Yesterday's racing results

Beverley

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.10 (5f) 1, **Imperial Khan** (Laura Coughlan, 4-1); 2, Emeralds Pride (9-2); 3, Sharrabang (9-1). 11 ran. NR: Harry With Style. 1l, 1l. P T Midgley.

2.40 (5f) 1, **Travel Candy** (F Norton, 6-5 fav); 2, Patasola (3-1); 3, Naval Flight (50-1). 9 ran. 2½l, ¾l. Kevin Coleman.

3.10 (7f 96yd) 1, **Cliffcake** (Ben Robinson, 22-1); 2, Ugo Gregory (3-1 fav); 3, Beltane (4-1). 12 ran. ns, nk. S R Bowring.

3.40 (7f 96yd) 1, **Bobby's Blessing** (Oisin Murphy, 4-1); 2, Leap Day (6-1); 3, Man Of A'An (5-4 fav). 7 ran. ns, 1l. Charlie Johnston.

4.10 (1m 100yd) 1, **Golden Sands** (Alistair Rawlinson, 11-2); 2, Crown Princess (5-1); 3, Poet's Dawn (11-1). 9 ran. 3l, nk. M Appleby.

4.40 (1m 100yd) 1, **Urban Road** (Rowan Scott, 11-1); 2, Mr Heinz (11-2); 3, Hostelry (3-1 fav). 11 ran. ½l, 1l. A D Brown.

5.12 (1m 4f 23yd) 1, **Cloudy Rose** (Oisin Murphy, 15-8 fav); 2, Valley Of Flowers (5-1); 3, Three Dragons (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Yakhabar. ½l, ½l. John Berry.

Placepot: £170.40.

Quadpot: £48.10.

Cartmel

Going: good

5.50 (2m 1f 46yd, hdle) 1, **Appreciate** (Bradley Harris, 6-1); 2=, Jeepydoff Meel (17-2); 2=, Yukon (10-1); . 7 ran. 2½l, dht. M F Harris.

6.20 (2m 1f 46yd, hdle) 1, **Special Rate** (Thomas Dowson, 3-1); 2, Idealdes Villerets (4-7 fav); 3, City Vaults (10-1). 8 ran. Nk, 1l. P A Kirby.

6.50 (2m 1f 46yd, hdle) 1, **Calevade** (R McLernon, 12-1); 2, Clean Getaway (9-4 fav); 3, Edinburgh Rock (11-2). 11 ran. 2½l, 10l. B Haslam.

7.20 (2m 1f 61yd, ch) 1, **Line Of Descent** (S Bowen, 11-4 fav); 2, Kicksaftersix (18-1); 3, We'll Go Again (3-1). 10 ran. NR: Tico Times. 7l, 1¾l. W Greatrex.

7.50 (2m 5f 34yd, ch) 1, **Post No Bills** (S Bowen, 5-4 fav); 2, Grey Skies (9-4); 3, Vintage Fizz (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Zumbi. ¾l, 1l. R Potter.

8.20 (3m 1f 107yd, ch) 1, **Time Leader** (Mr Huw Edwards, 10-11 fav); 2, Gaboriot (12-1); 3, Write It Down (11-1). 8 ran. 12l, 33l. J J O'Shea.

8.50 (2m 6f 31yd, hdle) 1, **Pyramid Place** (Bradley Harris, 9-2); 2, City Derby (10-3); 3, Thatbeatsbanagher (10-3). 7 ran. NR: Our Laura B. 1½l, sh hd. M F Harris.

Jackpot: £6,149.70.

Placepot: £18.30.

Quadpot: £4.10.

Hamilton

Going: good to firm

2.20 (5f 7yd) 1, **Abate** (Mia Nicholls, 13-8 fav); 2, Brian The Snail (12-1); 3, Refuge (8-1). 7 ran. 1¾l, nk. Adrian Nicholls.

2.50 (5f 7yd) 1, **Ganesha** (Connor Beasley, 18-1); 2, Swordplay (11-2); 3, Invincible Tiger (6-1). 8 ran. NR: Tees Douge. ½l, 1l. Phillip Makin.

3.20 (6f 6yd) 1, **Thaki** (J Fanning, 12-1); 2, Lord Abama (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Gannon Glory (5-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, 1l. K Scott.

3.50 (1m 3f 15yd) 1, **Simple Star** (P J McDonald, 2-1 fav); 2, A La Francaise (11-1); 3, Molinari (8-1). 5 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. Mrs Dianne Sayer.

4.20 (1m 68yd) 1, **End Zone** (Jonny Peate, 11-2); 2, Arranmore (2-1 fav); 3, Strangeronthe-shore (10-3). 5 ran. NR: Bay Dream Believer. ¾l, ¾l. R Fell.

4.50 (1m 1f 35yd) 1, **Arkenstaar** (Connor Beasley, 11-8 fav); 2, Time Traveller (7-2); 3, Hi Clare (10-3). 5 ran. NR: Tiamat. ½l, hd. M Dods.

5.20 (1m 1f 35yd) 1, **Hot Team** (D Nolan, 9-1); 2, Breguet Boy (11-8 fav); 3, Iron Sheriff (11-4). 7 ran. 1¼, 1l. P Morris.

Placepot: £244.20.

Quadpot: £19.60.

Newton Abbot

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.55 (2m 167yd, hdle) 1, **Carrigeen Kampala** (Liam Harrison, 4-7 fav); 2, Ede'iffs Rock (11-2); 3, Mairis Icon (5-1). 10 ran. 17l, 4¼l. F O'Brien.

2.30 (3m 1f 170yd, ch) 1, **Tommie Beau** (M G Nolan, 3-1); 2, Trevada (9-4 fav); 3, Ballinsker (7-2). 5 ran. 5l, 5½l. J W Mullins.

3.00 (2m 5f 122yd, hdle) 1, **Basford** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr., 1-5 fav); 2, Bala Brook (6-1); 3, Kylenoe Dancer (40-1). 8 ran. NR: Russies Dream. 8l, 6l. J Candlish.

3.30 (2m 4f 216yd, ch) 1, **Chief Black Robe** (Mr Tom Broughton, 4-6 fav); 2, Swapped (4-1); 3, Justshortofabubble (16-1). 7 ran. 17l, 30l. F O'Brien.

4.00 (2m 5f 122yd, hdle) 1, **Sherborne** (Freddie Gingell, 3-1); 2, Hunting Percival (80-1); 3, Kapitaliste (4-1). 7 ran. 3l, ½l. Joe Tizzard.

4.30 (2m 4f 216yd, ch) 1, **No Getaway** (Mr Sean Clarke, 10-1); 2, Diligent (6-4); 3, Espoir De Teillee (8-11 fav). NR: Treacys Jim. 7½l, 13l. R L Llewellyn.

5.03 (2m 2f 110yd, hdle) 1, **Charlie My Boy** (Harry Kimber, 9-4 fav); 2, Only Fools (14-1); 3, Zoran (13-2). 13 ran. NR: Shalott. ¾l, 2½l. K Burke.

Placepot: £101.30.

Quadpot: £47.30.

Warwick

Going: good (good to firm in places)

5.40 (3m 2f, hdle) 1, **Nickelsonthedime** (Mr Joshua Newman, Evens fav); 2, Premier D'troice (4-1); 3, Top Man (17-2). 5 ran. NR: Sandalwood. Nk, 20l. K Woollacott.

6.10 (2m, hdle) 1, **Allihies** (Tristan Durrell, 11-10 fav); 2, Choirmaster (3-1); 3, Double Click (7-4). 6l, 18l. D Skelton.

6.40 (2m 54yd, ch) 1, **Magistrato** (H Cobden, 5-4 fav); 2, Stepney Causeway (11-4); 3, Guinness Affair (7-4). 4l, 23l. P F Nicholls.

7.10 (2m 3f, hdle) 1, **Everyonesgame** (Lily Pinchin, 8-13 fav); 2, Global Famenglory (5-2); 3, Craven Bay (11-1). 4 ran. NR: The Swede. 5l, 30l. C E Longsdon.

7.40 (2m, hdle) 1, **Hiconic** (Kielan Woods, 9-2); 2, Prime Time Lady (9-2); 3, Pop The Champagne (11-4). 6 ran. 1l, 4¾l. A M Hales.

8.10 (2m 4f, ch) 1, **Junior Massini** (H Cobden, 10-11 fav); 2, Cheer's Delboy (13-2); 3, Fortunate Fred (3-1). 5 ran. 2l, 10l. Sheila Lewis.

8.40 (2m, flat) 1, **Jeudidee** (David Bass, Evens fav); 2, Exclusive Getaway (7-2); 3, Moon Lady (5-2). 4 ran. 3¼l, 4¾l. K C Bailey.

Placepot: £53.40.

Quadpot: £25.90

Norrie fends off Pouille and hostile home crowd

Lucas Pouille (Fra)	1	3	3
Cameron Norrie (GB, No14)	6	6	6

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent, Paris

As the first British man to play French opponents in back-to-back matches at Roland Garros since 1979, Cameron Norrie once again battled through the boos of the hostile Parisian crowd to reach the last 32 for the third consecutive year.

This was a far more comfortable contest for Norrie after it took three-and-a-half hours to defeat Benoît Paire on Monday. Yesterday the British No1 claimed his quickest-ever win in a best-of-five-set match on clay, seeing off Lucas Pouille 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 in one hour and 45 minutes.

There was some controversy towards the end when Norrie chased down a drop shot that had bounced twice on his side of the court. Umpire Eva Asderaki-Moore thought it had bounced only once and let play continue, with Norrie subsequently winning this point and the next to break for 3-1 in the third set. Unsurprisingly the home crowd did not let this pass by quietly, loudly jeering Norrie because of his failure to call the double bounce on himself. Afterwards he called for VAR-style replays to clarify any contention on the court.

"When it happened, I didn't realise," Norrie said. "The ball was spinning back, so I was like, 'Maybe there's a chance I got it.' There was a bit of doubt there.

"I think it's up to the umpire to call that. It was right there in front of her and close to her. When I was going ahead, I didn't know, so I continued the point. We should be using the technology. I don't know why we're not doing it in all aspects."

Regardless, Norrie was on course to win this match anyway. Forty-four years after John Lloyd lost in the second round to Dominique Bedel having beaten Bernard Fritz, Norrie did not emulate his countryman in falling short to a Frenchman, instead completing the victory for a chance to reach the fourth round here for the first time.

It was evident even before the match began that Norrie was in for a rough ride from the crowd. The No14 seed was greeted with boos when he walked out on to Court Suzanne-Lenglen and these continued for the first few shots that he hit during the warm-up, while Pouille received cheers for his.

Norrie's response was emphatic. He dropped only one game in a near-flawless 24-minute first set, and kept up the momentum after this to ease to a two-set lead.

Pouille, the former top-10 player who is ranked No675 after battling depression and alcohol issues last year, was furious with Asderaki-Moore for failing to spot the double bounce at a crucial moment in the third set. "It's crazy, it's your only job now except for saying the score," he told her during the next change of ends.

Pouille later told reporters that he had no issue with Norrie and that television replays should be used.

"When you run to the ball and you hit it, sometimes you don't know if it bounced twice or not," Pouille said. "It's easy with the video. You show it on the screen, and you see straight away if it bounced twice or not."

Norrie had no problem sealing his progress at the second time of asking. He now plays Italy's Lorenzo Musetti tomorrow for the right to likely take on the world No 1 Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP



After a "double bounce" that was not called and losing one of his two break points at 5-1 up, Norrie won in straight sets

Today's French Open highlights

Elena Rybakina (4) v Linda Noskova
Court Suzanne-Lenglen ***10am UK***
The Wimbledon champion from Kazakhstan takes on a talented 18-year-old Czech

Iga Swiatek (1) v Claire Liu
Court Philippe Chatrier
Approx 12.30pm
Polish top seed continues defence of her title against a former junior world No1 from the United States

Alexander Zverev (22) v Alex Molcan
Court Philippe Chatrier ***7.15pm***
The No22 seed from Germany is still working his way back up the rankings after ankle surgery

Alcaraz, 20, dropped his first set of the tournament to Japan's Taro Daniel but was still too strong overall in a 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory. The Spaniard next faces Denis Shapovalov, the No 26 seed from Canada, as he continues his bid for a second grand-slam title after winning last year's US Open. This year he has won 32 of 35 matches on the tour.

Novak Djokovic decided against making any further political statements yesterday, instead merely writing his signature and a smiley face on the camera lens after defeating Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, 6-3. The Serbian's message about Kosovo on Monday sparked a political backlash. However, Djokovic seemed unperturbed by the reaction. "It's something that I stand for, so that's all," he said.

In the women's singles, Aryna Sabalenka cruised into the third round with a 7-5, 6-2 win against Iryna Shymanovich. Afterwards the No 2 seed from Belarus refused to answer a Ukrainian journalist who had asked whether she would condemn the involvement of her nation in the ongoing invasion. "I've got no comments to you," Sabalenka, 25, said.

French hopes of a first singles title at Roland Garros since Mary Pierce in 2000 suffered a blow when the country's No1, Caroline Garcia, lost 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to Anna Blinkova. Garcia, the No5 seed, admitted that the pressure of the occasion had hindered her. "I know what I have to do on court, but then I get afraid that I will not make it," Garcia, 29, said.

Reprieve for London Irish is 'final' chance, says RFU

Rugby union
Alex Lowe Rugby Correspondent

London Irish were granted a final stay of execution last night after players and staff urged the RFU to extend the club's deadline so they could receive half of their May salaries.

The alternative for the RFU was to eject London Irish from the league pyramid with immediate effect after the club failed to secure its financial future by Tuesday's original deadline.

London Irish now have until 4pm on June 6 to either complete a takeover deal or for Mick Crossan, the owner, to commit to supporting the club financially for next season.

The remaining 50 per cent of player and staff salaries must also be covered, and frustrated RFU officials warned London Irish that the next deadline will be final. It is understood that Crossan is not prepared to bankroll the club any longer and insiders still have little confidence that a takeover will be completed in the next four working days.

Crossan, inset, approached the RFU over the weekend to request an extension, claiming that a deal with an American consortium was at an advanced stage and nearing completion.



The RFU has been growing increasingly sceptical of the proposed buyers, who have missed numerous deadlines to provide key disclosure documents, such as proof of funds. That information has still not been provided.

Desperate not to lose a third club in the space of a year, after the demise of Worcester Warriors and Wasps, the RFU was prepared to grant extra time, providing the club paid staff salaries for May in full. London Irish players were initially told that Crossan would cover the £500,000 payroll but within hours the club had backtracked, putting the squad in an invidious position by asking them accept 50 per cent of their May salaries and to not submit breach-of-contract letters, with a promise the rest would be covered by the new owners.

It is understood the players were told if they refused to comply, there would be no pay and the club would go under. The players were also told to keep this deal secret but it was revealed by The Times. One source said: "Crossan is just destroying his legacy by treating people this way."

Throughout all of this, London Irish executives did not speak to any back-room staff or wider club employees.

The RFU initially refused to grant an extension on the basis of 50 per cent of salaries being paid. There were some employees who wanted this "draining" saga to be brought to an immediate end so they could move on and find new clubs or employment opportunities.

But the players and staff asked the RFU to accept it "on the basis that 50 per cent was better than nothing". Around 15 minutes before the RFU's club financial viability group met to discuss the situation, all players and staff were paid 50 per cent of their salaries.

Paula Carter, chairwoman of the working group, said: "We are extremely disappointed the club has so far only funded 50 per cent of the wages, however, we have to respect the wishes of those most affected. The 4pm deadline on June 6 is final and we have added the stipulation that the club must also fulfil its contractual obligations to its employees by paying May salaries in full."

Webb to retire from Test rugby

Rhys Webb has retired from Test rugby citing the "present uncertainty and difficulties" in the Welsh game as a key influence on his decision.

Webb, 34, who earned 40 caps for Wales, follows his Ospreys colleagues Alun Wyn Jones and Justin Tipuric in stepping down before the World Cup.

All three were members of Wales' preliminary training squad before the tournament in France later this year but in announcing his retirement, Webb wrote on Instagram: "Whilst I would have relished the chance to end my career playing for a Welsh region, the present uncertainty and difficulties in Welsh rugby meant there was little opportunity for a contract that offered security for the coming years as I see out my professional career."

Webb, who plays at scrum half, has been strongly linked with a move to French second division club Biarritz.

Matthew Syed



Tell Djokovic and Just Stop Oil that sport is where we go to escape politics

Free speech is a wonderful thing. Like "democracy", it is one of those ideas that everyone claims for their own, even totalitarian dictators. Socrates was in favour of free speech, as was George Orwell. Those who are against it invite almost universal derision.

But I have to be honest: I think we have a right not only to free speech but also to its absence. I am talking Just Stop Oil protesters shouting their slogans while sitting on a snooker table doused in orange. I am talking about Kashmiri protesters in Birmingham interrupting the screening of a film by an Indian director. And, coming to the story du jour, I am talking about tennis players who write political slogans on TV cameras at grand-slam events.

To be honest, I find all these things almost as irritating as, say, the interminable debate about *This Morning*. For the avoidance of doubt, I rather like that people have strong opinions on all manner of issues and feel a compulsion to express them, but surely there's a time and a place. Do it in your own free time, or on a bar stool, or at Speakers' Corner, or wave a banner on Parliament Square. Or perhaps stand for parliament and make your points in the House of Commons.

But please don't intrude upon sport, or theatre, or cinema, or those other arenas that the rest of us cherish as sanctuaries from the banal contention of politics; oases of escapism where we don't have to listen to someone's opinion. This is why I regretted Novak Djokovic's message about Serbia this week, just as I would regret an actor leaving the script to give us his political views from the stage at the Globe. This isn't free speech; it is part of a growing intrusion that is undermining the enjoyment of everyone.

And I hope it goes without saying that this isn't about whether I agree or disagree with Djokovic's views on Serbian nationalism, or the timing of his intervention as blood is spilt in southern Europe. You can concur or not with his convictions on Kosovo or, indeed, the efficacy of the Covid vaccine. My point is different; namely that it is retrograde for the tennis authorities to fail to sanction him on this matter, for it offers carte blanche to others to get in on the act — not only players, but fans too — whether on colonialism, transgender rights, or whatever. Where will it end?





DAVID WINTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

After Djokovic stretched free speech to the limits with an anti-Kosovo message at Roland Garros this week, a mural of the Serb was defaced in Rahovec, inset, a predominantly Albanian town in Kosovo

None of this is to imply, by the way, that I don't care about political issues. And it doesn't mean — to go back to Just Stop Oil and Kashmir — that I don't give a stuff about energy, climate or the Indian subcontinent. For the avoidance of doubt, I have attended debates on these issues and even spoken at a few of them. No, the point is different and perhaps too subtle for the growing army of free speech absolutists. It is that many of us like to wind down, to switch off and to get away from these issues every now and then.

I spent Tuesday night in my living room alone (my family have taken a few days away for half-term) and smiled for two hours as I watched the second half of Gaël Monfils against Sebastian Baez at the French Open. I had a lovely pint of wheat beer (Erdinger, since you ask), a packet of tortilla chips and treated myself to some excellent spicy guacamole from Whole Foods. It was bliss. Monfils pulled the third set out of the bag, Baez roared back into contention in the fourth, then Monfils took the decider 7-5. I was drawn into the match like Alice into Wonderland as Simon Reed and Tim Henman crooned away in the commentary box.

There was a lovely handshake at the end, and a hug, and then Monfils fell to the clay and sobbed his heart out as he absorbed the sheer intensity of an epic contest. And somehow the world felt like a better place at the end; a world where two grown men can hit a silly little ball over a net and millions can gain incalculable pleasure from their artistry. Sport, in this sense, isn't just a game; it is a psychological safety valve. I woke up on Wednesday morning with a spring in my step.

Activists of various persuasions often tell us that they are keen to make the world a better place and they use this assertion to justify ruining the enjoyment of others. But perhaps I might offer a different perspective to ponder: namely, that the world is unequivocally a worse place for everyone, of whatever opinions, when all people feel entitled to shout their views ad infinitum, often piggybacking on cultural institutions that they had no part in nurturing and whose value they scarcely understand. Life shouldn't be a permanent cacophony.

And, to return to the wonderful match between Monfils and Baez, I can state that the spectacle would not just have been less alluring, but had a completely different meaning if I knew that the two players were wearing political slogans under their T-shirts or were poised to offer contentious opinions, whether written onto cameras or whatever else. At this point, sport becomes not a glorious distraction from real life but an adjunct to it. It becomes yet another territory ripe for invasion by activists and culture warriors.

This is why — taking a step back — we need to be honest that free speech and expression has certain limits, particularly when the definition of expression is extended to include such things as "locking on" or dousing fine art with orange powder. In a world of unlimited speech, it is not only culture that dies but a range of other, subtle, indefinable, joyous things. Life, as a consequence, is slightly less worth living. And that — I hope we can all agree — is a very serious matter indeed.

Forest planning to sell frustrated Shelvey

Football
Charlotte Duncker

Nottingham Forest are looking to offload Jonjo Shelvey this summer, with the midfielder keen to leave for more playing time.

Shelvey was signed in January on a 2½-year deal but has fallen out of favour at the City Ground and all parties are looking to bring his time at the club to an end. The 31-year-old is keen to move on having not played since April and it is understood that the management team will not stand in his way.

Shelvey made six league starts for Forest but a disagreement with Steve Cooper, the head coach, after learning he would not feature against his former side Liverpool, led to the midfielder being asked to stay at home.

Cooper said at the time that he had not fallen out with the player but it is understood he was unhappy with Shelvey's attitude around the training ground after he discovered he would not be involved at Anfield.

Cooper, who placed great focus on the unity of his squad during a season spent battling against relegation, believed Shelvey's reaction failed to contribute towards good team spirit. He was not involved in any subsequent match-day squads and was not part of the celebratory dressing-room picture after the win against Arsenal; although he was at the City Ground when Forest secured their top-flight status.

Shelvey spent seven years at Newcastle United and said an emotional farewell before moving to the City Ground. But with limited playing time and Cooper reassessing his squad, all parties would benefit from a fresh start. Cooper will be backed again in the summer transfer window despite the club having brought in 30 players over the past 12 months.

Young's second spell at Villa over as contract ends

Ashley Young is to leave Aston Villa at the end of his deal this summer.

The 37-year-old, who won 39 England caps, rejoined Villa in 2021 after winning the Serie A title with Inter Milan.

Young made more than 100 appearances for Watford before joining Villa in 2007. He signed for Manchester United in 2011 and won the Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Europa League during nine years at Old Trafford.

Young moved to Inter in 2020 and became the third Englishman to win Italy's top prize after Jimmy Greaves in 1962 and Gerry Hitchens in 1963.

Tielemans to walk away from Leicester after drop

Youri Tielemans has announced that he will be leaving Leicester City after the club's relegation from the Premier League.

The 26-year-old Belgium midfielder, who joined on loan from Monaco in 2019 before signing a permanent deal, scored the winning goal in the 2021 FA Cup final against Chelsea. He is out of contract this summer and will not be staying to help Leicester try to return to the top division after relegation, which came seven years after they won the Premier League.

James Maddison and Harvey Barnes are also expected to leave.

Wiegman opts for youth over Mead gamble at the World Cup

Molly Hudson

Sarina Wiegman focused her England squad selection for this summer's World Cup on form and youth rather than reputation and experience, with the tournament less than 50 days away.

The England head coach has decided against gambling on the fitness of Beth Mead, who ruptured her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in November, despite the forward being a key player in the European Championship triumph last summer, winning the Golden Boot and being named the player of the tournament.

Wiegman said the concern of another injury for Mead was a factor in her decision. "We very early [on] said we're not going to take that risk. I'm not willing to take that risk to push her too much and then she gets injured again, because we also have to take care of players and do what's smart," she said.

It has altered the balance of Wiegman's squad, with Katie Robinson, the 20-year-old Brighton & Hove Albion winger, benefiting.

Wiegman's seven forwards include three out-and-out strikers, Rachel Daly, Alessia Russo and Beth England. The selection of the latter is a bold move by Wiegman, who appeared to have settled on Daly and Russo as her two strikers — with her favoured 4-2-3-1 formation meaning only one can start — in the most recent camp.

But England's form has been impossible to ignore — she has scored 12 goals in 12 Women's Super League games to help Tottenham Hotspur avoid relegation. Coaches often favour stability over form, and Wiegman is known for her settled squads, so it is credit to England's character and ability that she has been selected.

"She made a move [from Chelsea] and she started playing in a hard situation because Tottenham was having a hard time, but how she did and how she performed and also how much resilience she showed — I think that made us get her in the squad," Wiegman added.

Daly is included in the squad as a forward, having been used as a left back at the Euros, and that area of the team could prove England's Achilles' heel. Leah Williamson is absent after rupturing her ACL and her replacement as captain, Millie Bright, has been named in the squad but is recovering from minor knee surgery.

These injuries mean the most experienced left back in the squad, Alex Greenwood, is likely to partner Bright at the heart of defence. Jess Carter or Niamh Charles offer two makeshift left-back options.

Steph Houghton has again been omitted, having missed out on the Euros when the squad was cut to 23 players. It appears to signal the end of the 35-year-old centre back's international career, given that she has not played for England since February 2021.

Wiegman called players individually to inform them of her decision. Of the starting XI who began every match of the Euros, three players were already ruled out of the World Cup. Williamson is sidelined, Ellen White, England's record goalscorer, retired last year and Fran Kirby is recovering from knee surgery.

Hannah Hampton, who had fallen out of favour for club and country at the end of last year, has capped her impressive recent form for Aston Villa with a call-up, joining Mary Earps and Ellie Roebuck as Wiegman's three goalkeepers. Earps will be vice-captain.

Maya Le Tissier, Jess Park and Emily Ramsey have been named on standby and will train with the squad at St George's Park this month. Ramsey will leave the group before departing for Australia, but Le Tissier and Park will travel down under with the squad on July 5 for the final preparation phase before the team's opening World Cup match, against Haiti, on July 22.

England remain one of the favourites for the tournament, alongside the United States. Wiegman's biggest task will be alleviating the pressure on a potentially weak defence.

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES



Wiegman found the goalscoring form of England, above, impossible to ignore

England squad

Mary Earps
Age: 30, Caps: 33, Club: *Manchester United*
Hannah Hampton
22, 2, *Aston Villa*
Ellie Roebuck
23, 11, *Manchester City*
Millie Bright
29, 66, *Chelsea*
Lucy Bronze
31, 104, *Barcelona*
Jess Carter
25, 17, *Chelsea*
Niamh Charles
23, 6, *Chelsea*
Alex Greenwood
29, 74, *Manchester City*
Esme Morgan
22, 4, *Manchester City*
Lotte Wubben-Moy
24, 10, *Arsenal*
Laura Coombs
32, 4, *Manchester City*
Jordan Nobbs
30, 71, *Aston Villa*
Georgia Stanway
24, 49, *Bayern Munich*
Ella Toone
23, 31, *Manchester United*
Keira Walsh
26, 58, *Barcelona*
Katie Zelem
27, 7, *Manchester United*
Rachel Daly
31, 68, *Aston Villa*
Beth England
28, 21, *Tottenham Hotspur*
Lauren Hemp
22, 37, *Manchester City*
Lauren James
21, 10, *Chelsea*
Chloe Kelly
25, 25, *Manchester City*
Katie Robinson
20, 4, *Brighton*
Alessia Russo
24, 21, *Manchester United*

Fixtures
July 22 England v Haiti, World Cup group stage Lang Park, (10.30 BST)
July 28 England v Denmark, World Cup group stage Sydney Football Stadium (9.30 BST)
August 1 China v England, World Cup group stage Hindmarsh Stadium, (12.0 BST)

Clubs frustrate England's warm-up plan

Molly Hudson

England's World Cup plans have been left in disarray by the reluctance of clubs to release players for a World Cup training camp.

The FA had planned for the camp for Sarina Wiegman's squad at St George's Park to begin on June 19, having given players two weeks off after the club season, which finishes on Saturday with the women's Champion League final. They also hoped to play a send-off game before they fly to Australia on July 5.

After extensive talks between stakeholders, including the FA and Fifa, a non-mandatory release time frame of June 23 to 29 was agreed by the European Club Association (ECA) in May. And Bayern Munich, as well as some leading Women's Super League clubs, are understood to be reluctant to allow players to leave until that window to allow their players more time to rest after the season, which finished for most clubs at the weekend.

If enough clubs refuse, Wiegman could be forced to start camp on June 23, which she believes may prevent England having a send-off game for the tournament that starts on July 20. England's first game is against Haiti on July 22.

"If we start on the 19th we have enough days to get ready for such a game, if we start later then the players are even longer out from football and then you have too short a time to get ready for a fixture," Wiegman said.

"That's frustrating because we have all our plans and we thought we were all set and then like a month ago, all of a sudden, things change…we didn't expect that, it is so late.

"We have to collaborate and talk to each other to try to solve [the calendar]. But now it's a short time...we're all set and a month before we start, it all changes. That's frustrating and it's hard too because I think this is not the time to do this. It's a time to do that later and solve it after this tournament."

The FA is continuing discussions with Fifa on whether they will be able to wear the OneLove armband at the tournament, after the men's team were banned from doing so at the Qatar World Cup last year.

A TV deal for the tournament is yet to be agreed with European nations, and the government released a statement encouraging a resolution to be found. The BBC and ITV are in talks about sharing the rights, and have offered about £9 million, a fraction of what they paid for the men's World Cup last year. If an agreement cannot be found, matches may be streamed on Fifa.com.

Spurs pause Postecoglou pursuit until after final

Tom Allnutt

Tottenham Hotspur plan to wait until after the Scottish Cup final on Saturday to follow up their interest in Ange Postecoglou, the Celtic head coach.

Celtic face Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Hampden Park and Spurs are prepared to delay their search for Antonio Conte's successor further to make negotiations as smooth as possible.

Spurs are still exploring a list of candidates after holding initial talks with Luis Enrique, Rúben Amorim, Arne Slot and Julian Nagelsmann. Slot has ruled himself out after signing a new contract at Feyenoord, while negotiations with Nagelsmann, the former Bayern Munich head coach, broke down due to the uncertainty around Tottenham's new sporting director. Spurs are still looking to fill the vacant sporting director position as well, after the resignation of Fabio Paratici in April.

Postecoglou has led Celtic to the Scottish title in each of his two seasons in charge and he will have won five out of six possible trophies in Scotland if his team prevail on Saturday.

The 57-year-old does not fit the young and up-and-coming profile that Spurs were looking for but he is viewed as the kind of manager that could quickly unite the dressing room next season and get the fans back onside.

Tottenham will wait for the new manager and sporting director to be hired before making significant moves in the transfer market this summer.

‘It was a slap to Ferguson’s United’

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Touré, who is now coaching at Spurs, below, scores the only goal of the 2011 FA Cup semi-final, a result that began a changing of the footballing guard in Manchester

Yaya Touré, building a coaching career with Tottenham, explains to **Paul Hirst** how City eclipsed their rivals

It has been a busy year for Yaya Touré. For the first time in his career, he has had a full-time coaching role, looking after Tottenham Hotspur’s under-16s.

The team are yet to win their first trophy, but Touré is making waves. Under his management Mikey Moore and Callum Olusesi, two of England’s most promising youngsters, are developing into stars, and the parents of some of the players have been so impressed with the style of play that they have christened it “YayaBall”.

As well as coaching Tottenham’s youngsters, he is studying for his Uefa Pro Licence.

Now settled with his family in the northwest London suburb of Hampstead, Touré has found contentment and a purpose, having experienced a period of uncertainty that came after he hung up his boots in 2020 following a spell in China.

“When I retired I felt devastated,” Touré, 40, says. “I couldn’t accept leaving football but I didn’t have a clue about where to go or what to do. But I wanted to give something back to football. After [starting coaching at Spurs] I fell in love again [with football].”

Now that the season is over, Touré is due to fly back to the Ivory Coast this week to enjoy some down time. When he arrives at his house in his homeland, he will see one of his prized possessions, a teamsheet from Manchester City’s 6-1 hammering of Manchester United, hanging on the wall.

“I took it home with me after the match,” Touré says with a smile. “The teamsheet is in a United frame!”

Twelve years on Touré still beams with pride when talking about the “battering” that City handed down to United at Old Trafford in October 2011. “It was like a slap in the face of the United fans, and even the players, in front of [Sir Alex] Ferguson,” he says.

“I remember watching highlights of the game and … Ferguson’s face, it was red. He didn’t say anything. You could see it in his eyes. He was like, ‘Oh.’ It was incredible.”



It was a result that had been three years in the making. Since taking over in 2008, City’s new owners from Abu Dhabi had invested hundreds of millions of pounds in the playing squad and the infrastructure of the club.

They had to deal with jibes from the red half of Manchester. In 2009, when asked if City could ever become the dominant team in Manchester, Ferguson replied: “Not in my lifetime.”

For most, the scoreline came as a huge shock, but not Touré. The seeds of that famous win had been sown a few months before when the rivals met at Wembley, where they will face off again on Saturday in this year’s FA Cup final.

The 2011 FA Cup semi-final in London against United was City’s penultimate hurdle in their quest to win their first piece of silverware under their new owners.

City defeated United 1-0 and beat Stoke City by the same scoreline in the final.

Touré, who arrived from Barcelona in 2010 for £24 million, scored both winners, cementing his place as a club legend.

His winner in the semi-final came after he intercepted a pass from Michael Carrick on the edge of the United box and beat Edwin van der Sar. “That few seconds was like a résumé of my career at Man City,” Touré says. “I was always box to box, powerful. The goal was not something creative. It was just about desire, trying to close down.”

Under Roberto Mancini, City finished third in the Premier League in the 2010-11 campaign, nine points behind their table-topping neighbours, but they were more than happy to claim the FA Cup. According to Touré, it was only after the semi-final win that people inside and outside the club believed that they could end United’s hegemony in Manchester.

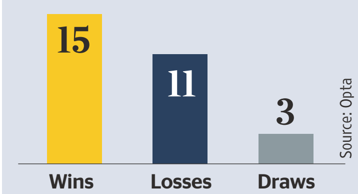
“There was a big celebration,” he says. “The executives were on the train with us after the game and they also came into the dressing room to share our happiness. They were saying, ‘This is it now, change is coming.’

“Everyone around the city realised it. After that match, when I went to the shops, even United fans would say, ‘Oh Yaya, you guys, jeez.’ Before then, United fans would ask, ‘So what do you do at City? Losers.’ After that game everything changed. The mentality changed. We started to get more respect. People started to believe in the project.”

Watch a replay of the first half of that match and you will see a completely different City team from the one that now plays with such confidence and vibrancy.

Turning the tide

Since beating Manchester United in the 2011 FA Cup semi-final, Manchester City have won 15 of the 29 derbies since, with a goal difference of +19



Patrick Vieira, a substitute, told his team-mates that they had no reason to be “shy” during a rousing pre-match team talk, but once they emerged from the tunnel, City froze and they were lucky to go in 0-0 at the break.

“I remember getting into the dressing room at half-time and saying, ‘Look, we’re too passive,’ ” Touré says. “We were respecting United too much. It was quiet in the dressing room for two or three minutes. We were getting battered.”

Touré has fond memories of his team-mates from that era. “What we had together in the dressing room was fantastic,” he says.

“People like [Sergio] Agüero, [Joleon] Lescott, [Vincent] Kompany, Micah Richards, Samir [Nasri], [David] Silva, [Mario] Balotelli, [Edin] Dzeko, Joe Hart and Gareth Barry. They are important people to me.

“When I was down, those people lifted me a lot.”

He has a lot of admiration for Carlos Tevez, whom City poached from United in 2009.

“To take him from a big rival and bring him to you, you can understand why Ferguson was frustrated and pissed [off],” Touré says. “I remember seeing it on Sky when I was at Barcelona, ‘Tevez switches from United to City.’ It was incredible.”

Touré did not always see eye to eye with Pep Guardiola, who also clashed with the player’s former agent Dmitriy Seluk, during his final two years at City, but he is still admired greatly by the club and their fans. When he left in 2018, City named a pitch after him at the training ground, and Touré will be cheering City on at the weekend.

After a period of respite, he will be back on the training pitches of Tottenham’s Enfield base. His ultimate aim, he says, is to go into management.

“I love doing what I’m doing at Tottenham and what I can carry on giving to them but now I feel like I’m looking for a new challenge,” he says. “I dream to one day be a manager. We never know in life, maybe I’ll meet Man City one day again.”

Return of key players raises City hopes

CONTINUED FROM BACK

their interest now, City are hoping to conclude a deal for Kovacic early in the summer. Chelsea are likely to ask for between £30 million and £40 million for the Croatia international, who has one year remaining on his contract. Bayern Munich are also interested, but he would prefer a move to City.

City’s interest in Kovacic dates back to 2018, when he was on a shortlist of midfield targets along with Jorginho, who joined Chelsea that summer. Kovacic started 27 of Chelsea’s 50 matches this season, but missed eight games due to injury or illness.

City are already well-stocked in midfield, but there are questions surrounding the future of three players. Kalvin Phillips has started only two Premier League games since joining from Leeds United for £45 million last summer; Bernardo Silva would be interested in a move to mainland Europe and is attracting the interest of Paris Saint-Germain; and Ilkay Gundogan is out of contract in the summer. Barcelona have offered Gundogan a contract, but City are pushing hard to try to persuade their captain to stay.

The Premier League champions had some good news before the FA Cup final as Jack Grealish, Rúben Dias, Kevin De Bruyne and Manuel Akanji all returned to training, raising hopes that they will be fit to face Manchester United at Wembley on Saturday.

Dalot handed five-year deal

Paul Hirst

Manchester United have decided against recruiting a right back this summer and will stick with Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Diogo Dalot, who signed a new five-year contract yesterday.

Dalot’s contract has been due to expire at the end of next season, so United moved to extend his stay by handing him an improved contract that will run until the summer of 2028.

United have an option to extend the deal by a further year. The club were considering signing a right back in the summer — they have been linked with Benjamin Pavard, of Bayern Munich, and Bayer Leverkusen’s Jeremie Frimpong — but Erik ten Hag, the United manager, is happy with Dalot and Wan-Bissaka.

Wan-Bissaka, 25, struggled for form and fitness at the start of the campaign, but he has improved since the turn of the year. Dalot, who joined United from Porto for £19 million in 2018, has started 38 of United’s 61 games this season and has occasionally filled in at left back.

'It would take something special to entice me to leave Brentford'

Thomas Frank talks to **Alyson Rudd** about Ivan Toney, European ambitions and managing expectations

SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES



Thomas Frank has an unerring ability to make you feel you should try a little harder. No manager did more this season than the Dane to make the big six clubs shrivel a little inside and Brentford's final-day victory over Manchester City meant that he completed the double over the league champions.

And as for me, we are sitting in a broadcast studio overlooking the Gtech Community Stadium pitch, where a corporate-style tournament is winding down and I laugh at the portly chap who is last to leave the action, but Frank says he prefers to take note of the teenager who is clearly having the time of his life.

Must do better. But then so should all the pundits and fans who view Brentford as one-dimensional.

"It irritates me, those who say we are a set-piece team and a physical team, then they haven't seen what we are good at," the Brentford head coach says.

He is quite right. His team have been a joy to watch all season. It sometimes felt as if there was only room for one surprise package and so the gushing was reserved for Brighton & Hove Albion's fearless displays and their achievement in reaching the Europa League. Had Brentford clinched European football — and they came very close indeed — then perhaps the love would have been more evenly distributed.

But it has been this way throughout Frank's career. In Denmark he was so famous for coaching tiki-taka, possession-based football with the national youth teams that by the time he took over at Brondby in 2013 "it was you see what you look for, so every time we put ten passes together people said: 'Oh, he only wants to do that.' But no, we press high and so on."

The inverse is true in the Premier League. Because Brentford are lauded for their set pieces, physicality and work rate, when they pull off an upset, that is often all people notice. "Apparently we are only a set-piece team where we can play in behind or play direct, but I think I am much more pragmatic," he says.

His approach when facing the top-six sides was to adopt a 5-3-2 formation, which is difficult to break down. "But people forget that we press high in every game against the top six," Frank says. "I didn't see any other team doing that in the Premier League. Since we started doing that two years ago now the other teams, you see they are going man [for] man. We are direct and more counterattacking against the top six but in other games we are adding layers."

That the west London club would avoid "second-season syndrome" was clear after their opening home game of the campaign, when they defeated Manchester United 4-0, running 8.5 more miles than United in the process. Frank, 49, says every club should work as hard as his team and he used the distance covered stats as a benchmark after every game. Did anyone outrun Brentford this season?

"Very few," he says — he thinks it may have happened on no more than four occasions. This did not make him angry, though, as it was by a margin of about 100 metres across all 11 players.

Not all managers will publicly name their player of the season, but Frank is adamant that his is Ivan Toney. "As a striker you need to score goals and he scored 20 and missed five games and that is remarkable," Frank says. "His link-up play is at a very high level. The ones who look at him closely can see how technically good he is, the way he understands the game is a big thing, he is a fantastic leader and character on the pitch and a very good pressing player. He sees the triggers early."

I had assumed that Frank might have singled him out because Toney's performances did not dip during the three months while he waited for the disciplinary hearing into his breaches of FA gambling rules. "I agree that was extremely impressive," Frank says, "but I have seen him for so many years now that one thing he is really good at is, that no matter what is happening around him, he will focus out there on the grass."

Frank found out at the same time as the rest of us that Toney had a gambling addiction, a revelation that was made in the written reasons released by the FA to explain the England striker's eight-month ban. The club has yet to determine what help they are allowed to offer Toney. He is permitted to return to the club for treatment for his hamstring injury, but not for any further fitness regimes.

"It's all a little bit blurry, but we are aware we don't want to overstep anything we are not allowed to do," Frank says.

He has called the 27-year-old "and if I'm allowed I'll definitely meet with him and have a talk", he says. "Uncertainty is the most difficult thing to handle so now he knows what to deal with and in a way that is a bit easier, although of course not easy, but he is the kind of guy to say, 'It is what it is,' and now we need to get on with it."

There has been speculation that a big club may bid for Toney now on the basis that while banned he may be cheaper. "One thing we are good at here is selling players," Frank says, "so I'm pretty sure we would want the maximum price if we are to sell a player."

We discuss the difference between ambition and determination and that you need the latter to attain the former. "Then I guess I have both," he says, smiling.

He is often linked to clubs in need of an astute coach, but he appears to have little interest in joining a dysfunctional club, no matter their stature. He calls Matthew Benham, the Brentford owner, "remarkable" and says working in a calm environment "is a big thing as I am emotional and passionate".

"You never know if I am going to be here one, two, three, four, five, six or ten years but I'm very, very happy where I am and if I ever have to do something in the future it would need to be something special."

Or he may embark on a different career altogether. We discuss the rise of artificial intelligence and whether a robot could replicate the gut instincts of a coach. He hopes not.

"For now, I love coaching and I am at the best moment of my career but you never know, it's a tough job."

Just don't tell his No1 fan, Woody, that there may be a day when Frank leaves. Frank shows me a message from the youngster, who has Down's syndrome, entitled "Things I love about Thomas", which seems to move him more than the fact Brentford finished ninth.

Painting, cooking and music are all things Frank would love to be good at but he isn't, and so he is forced to concede that he would move into leadership or consultancy or work with young people. In Denmark children can take a year out of academia, which he did after he left college.

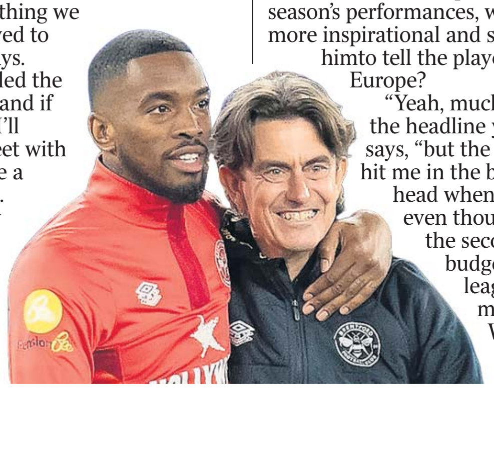
"It was amazing, 130 people, 20 years old, just doing sport, partying and enjoying themselves and creating friendships for life. I'm going to see a group of 12 of us this weekend in Denmark."

Will he get drunk? "Yes! And tell the same stories."

After losing the Sky Bet Championship play-off final to Fulham in 2020, he inspired his team to do better the next year when they defeated Swansea City at Wembley and so, rather than simply state he wants to improve on this season's performances, would it not be more inspirational and sexier for himto tell the players to aim for Europe?

"Yeah, much sexier, that's the headline you want," he says, "but the one that will hit me in the back of my head when we are 16th, even though we have the second-lowest budget in the league. Money matters a bit. We have to manage expectations."





Frank celebrates Brentford's 4-0 victory over Manchester United at home in August, above. Receiving a gift from superfan Woody, left. With Toney, right, Frank's player of the season who is now serving an eight-month ban

Bounou ensures it's misery for Mourinho

Sevilla enriched their incredible history in the Europa League by beating Roma 4-1 on penalties to claim the second-tier European club title for the seventh time (James Gheerbrant writes).

The goalkeeper Yassine Bounou was the hero, making two fine saves in the shoot-out — after the game had ended 1-1 after extra time — to hand José Mourinho his first defeat in a European final.

The striker Paulo Dybala, making his first start since mid-April, scored the opening goal, with Sevilla drawing level when a Jesus Navas cross was turned into his own net by Gianluca Mancini.

MARKO DJURICA/REUTERS



Joan Jordán leads his team-mates in celebration after Sevilla win the penalty shoot-out to leave Mourinho, inset, disconsolate

His first defeat in a European final

José Mourinho had won all five of the European finals his team had played in until last night

2003 Uefa Cup
Porto 3-2 Celtic **W**

2004 Champions League
Monaco 0-3 Porto **W**

2010 Champions League
Bayern Munich 0-2 Inter Milan **W**

2017 Europa League
Ajax 0-2 Manchester United **W**

2022 Europa Conference League
Roma 1-0 Feyenoord **W**

2023 Europa League
Sevilla 1-1 Roma, Sevilla win 4-1 on pens **L**

Tuchel tells Rice he will build Munich midfield around him

Constantin Eckner

Thomas Tuchel told Declan Rice he sees him as the perfect holding midfielder for his Bayern Munich team during a charm offensive aimed at persuading the West Ham United midfielder to join the German club rather than Arsenal this summer.

Bayern are willing to pay a transfer fee of up to £85 million for Rice, which would be the most the club have ever spent on a player.

While the lucrative offer from the serial German champions has provided Rice with a decision to make, the England international is still believed to be leaning towards joining Mikel Arteta's Arsenal. Arteta has been determined to sign Rice, and staying in London would mean the player would not need to relocate his young family.

Tuchel, the Bayern head coach, spoke to Rice on the phone, following up on previous contact between the 24-year-old England midfielder and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic, who has since been sacked by the Bundesliga champions.

Tuchel told Rice he believes he is the ideal holding player for his system, covering space and providing insurance behind Bayern attackers Jamal Musiala, Leroy Sané and Thomas Müller.



Rice is believed to be keen to sign for Arsenal

Tuchel has not been satisfied by the performances of his current central midfielders. Joshua Kimmich is considered to be too attack-minded for the No 6 position, and Tuchel feels Rice will provide better defensive protection.

Bayern are also looking to add a striker to the squad, with Dusan Vlahovic of Juventus likely being the target.

Salihamidzic and chief executive Oliver Kahn were removed from their positions after Bayern's dramatic final-day championship win on Saturday.

Jan-Christian Dreesen has taken over the reins at Allianz Arena, with Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness, Bayern's long-time powerbrokers, also back in the fold and essentially calling the shots.

During his telephone conversation with Rice, for whom West Ham have indicated they hope to command a fee as high as £100 million, Tuchel also stressed how playing for Bayern would develop Rice, and assured him he would have the status of being a star player at one of Europe's most successful clubs.

Rice would be part of an anticipated squad revamp. Defenders Lucas Hernández and Benjamin Pavard are considering leaving the club and Sadio Mané, signed from Liverpool last summer, would be allowed to depart if an appropriate offer is received.

'Players will not like cap'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

that "we have to seriously think about a salary cap". Ceferin referenced concerns over "competitive balance", adding: "It's not about the owners, it's about the value of the competition, because if five clubs will always win then it doesn't make sense any more."

The Professional Footballers' Association's chief executive, Maheta Molango, said last month that players would "rightly be angry" about any move towards a salary cap. He added: "Football's leaders are quickly going to create a real problem if they continue to treat players like this."

Spending caps in sport

Premiership Rugby
£5 million squad salary, rising to £6.4 million in 2024-25, excludes salaries for two "marquee" players.

Rugby league
Squads are limited to a salary of £2.1 million, plus two marquee stars who can be paid up to £150,000.

American football's NFL
A hard cap limits maximum a team can spend on player contracts to $224.8 million (about £181.5 million).

Basketball's NBA
Teams that breach the soft cap of $123.7 million (about £100 million) have to pay a luxury tax.

Football
EFL clubs agreed a squad salary cap of £1.5 million in League Two and £2.5 million in League One but this was scrapped in 2021 after a challenge from the PFA.

Leeds owner Radrizzani finalises Sampdoria deal

A consortium that includes the Leeds United chairman and majority shareholder Andrea Radrizzani has completed its takeover of the Italian club Sampdoria.

Radrizzani's company Aser Group and finance company Gestio Capital announced that they had concluded a deal to save financially stricken Sampdoria late on Tuesday night.

Radrizzani, who bought Leeds for £45 million in 2017, is expected to sell his 56 per cent stake in the club to US co-owners 49ers Enterprises.

Results

Football

Europa League Final
Sevilla (0) **1** **Roma** (1) **1**
Mancini (og) 55 Dybala 34
aet; 1-1 after 90 mins, Sevilla won 4-1 on penalties

Cricket

Vitality Blast: South Group
Middlesex v Glamorgan
Northwood (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (2pts) beat Middlesex by 29 runs

Glamorgan		(balls)
E J Byrom c Andersson b Cullen	7	(8)
S A Northeast c Helm b Andersson	6	(7)
*K S Carlson c Andersson b Cullen	16	(13)
C A Ingram not out	92	(51)
†C B Cooke not out	113	(41)
Extras (lb 2, w 2)	4	
Total (3 wkts, 20 overs)	**238**	

H W Podmore, W T Root, D A Douthwaite, P Sisodiya, P Hatzoglou and J P McIlroy did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-13, 2-17, 3-51.
Bowling Helm 4-0-69-0; Cullen 4-0-23-2; Andersson 4-0-38-1; Higgins 4-0-62-0; Fernandes 2-0-26-0; Hollman 2-0-18-0.

Middlesex		(balls)
*S S Eskinazi c McIlroy b Sisodiya	59	(33)
J B Cracknell st Cooke b Hatzoglou	77	(42)
M D E Holden c Byrom b Sisodiya	11	(6)
P J Malan b Hatzoglou	11	(11)
L B K Hollman c sub b McIlroy	9	(12)
R F Higgins not out	19	(10)
†J L B Davies not out	4	(6)
Extras (b 9, lb 6, w 4)	19	
Total (5 wkts, 20 overs)	**209**	

M K Andersson, N Fernandes, T G Helm and B C Cullen did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-146, 2-150, 3-162, 4-179, 5-185.
Bowling McIlroy 4-0-45-1; Podmore 4-0-46-0; Sisodiya 4-0-34-2; Douthwaite 4-0-41-0; Hatzoglou 4-0-28-2.

Hampshire Hawks v Surrey
The Rose Bowl (Surrey won toss): Surrey (2pts) beat Hampshire by six wickets

Hampshire		(balls)
†B R McDermott c Narine b Abbott	18	(13)
*J M Vince not out	88	(56)
T J Prest st Smith b Narine	33	(33)
J J Weatherley b Atkinson	9	(10)
R A Whiteley c Smith b S M Curran	3	(7)
J K Fuller not out	1	(1)
Extras (lb 2, w 2)	4	
Total (4 wkts, 20 overs)	**156**	

T E Albert, L A Dawson, N T Ellis, M S Crane and C P Wood did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-101, 3-137, 4-148.
Bowling Abbott 3-0-13-1; Lawes 2-0-26-0; Atkinson 4-0-31-1; Curran 4-0-28-1; Jordan 3-0-34-0; Narine 4-0-22-1.

Surrey		(balls)
W G Jacks not out	83	(57)
L J Evans c McDermott b Wood	13	(11)
S M Curran c Fuller b Crane	8	(8)
T K Curran st McDermott b Dawson	11	(12)
S P Narine c Fuller b Dawson	7	(3)
†J L Smith not out	30	(22)
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 3)	5	
Total (4 wkts, 18.5 overs)	**157**	

S A Abbott, J Overton, *C J Jordan, A A P Atkinson and T E Lawes did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-24, 2-54, 3-85, 4-93.
Bowling Wood 4-0-26-1; Ellis 3.5-0-46-0; Fuller 3-0-22-0; Crane 4-0-43-1; Dawson 4-0-18-2.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Somerset	4	4	0	0	0	**8**	2.18
Surrey	4	3	1	0	0	**6**	1.54
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	-0.21
Essex	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	0.48
Kent	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-0.07
Sussex	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-0.07
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.97
Hampshire	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-1.39
Middlesex	4	0	4	0	0	**0**	-1.59

North Group
Birmingham Bears v Northamptonshire Steelbacks
Northampton (Northamptonshire won toss and elected to bowl.): Birmingham Bears (2pts) beat Northamptonshire Steelbacks by 21 runs

Birmingham		(balls)
*†A L Davies st McManus b Heldreich	46	(29)
R M Yates c Cobb b Willey	71	(53)
G J Maxwell c Tye b Heldreich	0	(1)
S R Hain not out	48	(27)
D R Mousley c Taylor b Tye	2	(3)
C G Benjamin c Taylor b Tye	10	(3)
E G Barnard c Cobb b Willey	6	(3)
H J H Brookes not out	3	(2)
Extras (lb 7, w 7, nb 2)	16	
Total (6 wkts, 20 overs)	**202**	

D R Briggs, C N Miles and J B Lintott did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-100, 2-100, 3-149, 4-165, 5-175, 6-186.
Bowling Willey 4-0-33-2; Taylor 3-0-37-0; Tye 4-0-52-2; Cobb 1-0-7-0; Heldreich 4-0-32-2; Sales 2-0-18-0; White 2-0-16-0.

Northamptonshire		(balls)
R S Vasconcelos c Briggs b Miles	65	(39)
C A Lynn c Maxwell b Miles	7	(6)
J J Cobb c Lintott b Mousley	3	(3)
*D J Willey c Mousley b Briggs	33	(27)
S A Zaib c Hain b Miles	14	(15)
†L D McManus c Mousley b Maxwell	29	(14)
T A I Taylor not out	5	(8)
G G White c Davies b Miles	8	(3)
A J Tye not out	8	(5)
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 4)	9	
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)	**181**	

J J G Sales and F J Heldreich did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-41, 2-58, 3-81, 4-112, 5-147, 6-159, 7-169.
Bowling Brookes 3-0-27-0; Maxwell 3-0-28-1; Briggs 3-0-22-1; Mousley 4-0-47-1; Miles 4-0-29-4; Barnard 1-0-14-0; Lintott 2-0-9-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Birmingham	4	4	0	0	0	**8**	1.66
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	0.86
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	0	**6**	0.81
Durham	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	1.49
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	0	0	**4**	0.14
Yorkshire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.72
Northamptonshire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-1.06
Derbyshire	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-1.05
Leicestershire	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-2.37

Charlotte Edwards Cup
Sunrisers v Western Storm
Sunrisers 149-6 (Macleod 34, Gardner 37; Gibson 2-27, Skelton 2-19). Western Storm 150-3 (Gibson 62, Wilson 58) Western Storm beat Sunrisers by seven wickets.

Southern Vipers v Thunder
Thunder 111 (Heap 22, Dottin 24; Shrubsole 2-24, L Smith 2-16, Adams 2-22). Southern Vipers 111 (McCaughan 42, Adams 36; Bell 2-29). Southern Vipers beat Thunder by four wickets.

Tennis

French Open
Roland Garros, Paris: Second round (seeds in brackets) **Men** L Sonego (It) bt U Humbert (Fr) 6-4. 6-3, 7-6 (7-3); D Schwartzman (Arg) bt N Borges (Por) 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-3; F Fognini (It) bt J Kubler (Aus) 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; S Ofner (Aut) bt (24) S Korda (US) 6-3, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4; (5) S Tsitsipas (Gr) bt R Carballes Baena (Sp) 6-3, 7-6- (7-4), 6-2; T Kokkinakis (Gr) bt S Wawrinka (Switz) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3; (1) C Alcaraz (Sp) bt T Daniel (Japan) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; (26) D Shapovalov (Can) bt M Arnaldi (It) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; (11) K Khachanov (Russ) bt R Albot (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; J P Varillas (Chile) bt (19) R Bautista Agut (Sp) 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; A (29) Davidovich Fokina (Sp) bt L van Assche (Fr) 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6); (14) C Norrie (GB) bt L Pouille (Fr) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; (13) H Hurkacz (Pol) bt T Griekspoor (Neth) 6-3, 5-7. 6-7 (13-15), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; (7) A Rublev (Russ) bt C Moutet (Fr) 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; (17) L Musetti (It) bt A Shevchenko (Russ) 6-1, 6-1, 6-2; (3) N Djokovic (Serbia) bt M Fucsovics (Bul) 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, 6-3. **Women** E Svitolina (Ukr) bt S Hunter (Aus); K Muchova (Cz) bt N Podoroska (Arg) 6-3, 0-6, 6-3; (24) A Potapova (Russ) bt M Sherif (Egy) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; (28) E Mertens (Bel) bt C Osorio (Col) 6-3, 7-6 (7-3); (3) J Pegula (US) bt C Giorgi (It) 6-2 ret; A Blinkova (Russ) bt (5) C Garcia (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; E Svitolina (Ukr) bt S Sanders (Aus) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; (9) D Kasatkina (Russ) bt M Vondrousova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; P Stearns (US) bt (17) J Ostapenko (Lat) 6-3, 1-6, 6-2; Y Putintseva (Kaz) bt (19) Zheng Qinwen (China) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; S Stephens (US) bt V Gracheva (Russ) 6-2, 6-1; (2) A Sabalenka (Bela) bt I Shymanovich (Bela) 7-5, 6-2; A Pavlyuchenkova (Russ) bt (15) L Samsonova (Russ) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5; (27) I Begu (Rom) bt S Errani (It) 6-3, 6-0; C Tauson (Den) bt L: Fernandez (Can) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; K Rakhimova (Russ) bt M Frech (Pol) 6-3, 6-4; E Avanesyan (Russ) bt L Jeanjean (Fr) 6-0, 7-5.

Fixtures

Football

cinch Premiership play-off final first leg
Partick Thistle v Ross County (8.0).

Cricket

Test, Lord's: England v Ireland (first day of four, from 11am).
Vitality Blast: North Group: Leicestershire v Derbyshire (6.30); Yorkshire v Lancashire (7.0). **South Group:** Sussex v Essex (7.0).

Reduced role for Stokes would test England's balance

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent



Hard to think now, given the heightened optimism and excitement before an Ashes summer, but 12 months ago, as Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum came together for the first time at Lord's, England's Test team were on one of their worst streaks in history. Since then, we have witnessed one of the most remarkable, uplifting turnarounds in any sport, never mind cricket.

As much as Rob Key, the managing director, and McCullum, the head coach, must take their share of credit, the principal driver of performance in a cricket team is always the captain, by dint of the number of instinctive in-play decisions that must be taken and the amount of time he spends with his players — six hours or more in every Test-match day — without the coaching staff getting in the way. There has never been a great cricket team without someone significant at the helm.

Stokes has filled his players with self-belief, optimism and drive, banishing the fear of failure. That they walk a little taller under his captaincy than they did before is undeniable. It is hard to quantify this influence but nobody, surely, is blind to it, having witnessed the confidence and freedom with which his players have performed from Trent Bridge to Tauranga. As player and captain, Stokes is essential to the character and spirit of this team.

That everyone has been on "Stokes watch" before the first Test of the summer is, therefore, understandable. When most recently seen in England colours in Wellington, Stokes was palpably injured, unable to fulfil his function as an all-rounder and struggling to bat without hindrance in the final run chase of the series. At one point, as he set off limping for a single, I described him as resembling "an octogenarian scurrying from an April shower". Stokes did not bowl in that game.

Since then, he has been in the Indian Premier League, but largely absent from view. Stokes played two matches only for his franchise, Chennai Super Kings, making eight and seven, and bowling one over, which went for 18. Like Joe Root, who warmed the bench at Rajasthan, he was surplus to requirement, albeit more expensively so.



Anderson was with the squad at Lord's but will not play against Ireland

Squads for Lord's Test

England

Player	Age	Tests
Ben Duckett	28	9
Zak Crawley	25	33
Ollie Pope	25	35
Joe Root	32	129
Harry Brook	24	6
*Ben Stokes	31	91
†Jonny Bairstow	33	89
Stuart Broad	36	161
Matthew Potts	24	5
Jack Leach	31	34
Josh Tongue	25	0

Ireland (from)

Player	Age	Tests
*Andy Balbirnie	32	6
Mark Adair	27	3
Curtis Campher	24	3
George Dockrell	30	2
Matthew Foster	23	0
Fionn Hand	24	0
Graham Hume	32	2
Thomas Mayes	22	0
Andrew McBrine	30	5
James McCollum	27	5
PJ Moor	32	11
Paul Stirling	32	4
Harry Tector	23	3
Lorcan Tucker	26	3
Craig Young	33	0

There are two ways of looking at his stint there. The glass-half-empty version is laced with worry and doubt based on the cortisone injection that was required before the tournament and the lack of game time that ensued. He comes into the international summer having played next to no cricket, with a question mark around his fitness, and no obvious solution should that be a significant issue.

The glass-half-full version is that he was paid handsomely (£1.6 million plus win bonus) for a period that allowed him to physically ready himself for the Ashes. In a sport that has punishing schedules, a two-month period of physical conditioning is a rare and precious opportunity to reset the body for what is to come. No prizes for guessing from which glass Stokes is sipping, saying he is ready to fulfil a vow he made to his team-mates at the end of the New Zealand series.

"I made a promise to myself and team-mates, in particular the bowlers, that I will be doing everything I possibly can to be in a position to fulfil that role [as an all-rounder]. I've done that," he said yesterday. "The knee is in a much better place than it was in Wellington. I've been in India for the IPL over the past nine to ten weeks but what I have done is get myself into a position where I am not able to look back and regret or say I have not given myself the best opportunity to play a full role with the ball this summer."

England v Ireland
Lord's
Starts today, 11am
TV: Sky Sports Main
Radio: BBC 5 Live Sports Extra

Physically, Stokes reckons to be back to where he was in 2019 — a memorable summer for him, of course — and he certainly looks fitter and leaner than he did in New Zealand. That said, his preparation this week at Lord's has involved some batting in the nets — he looked in superb touch yesterday — some throwing to team-mates with a "dog stick" but no bowling. He is not expected to bowl against Ireland and his readiness to play a full role in the Ashes must be taken on trust.

Stokes's fitness to bowl is fundamental to England's chances and has an impact on every aspect of selection. It is vital for the balance, clearly, with five bowlers being preferable to four. There is no obvious solution if he cannot bowl, given that he must play as captain and one of six batsmen. England have asked for flat, hard pitches, which would put a strain on an attack with only three seamers and Jack Leach, who suffered a mauling at the hands of Australia's batsmen last time.

His fitness is not the only question mark, with England's attack for the Ireland Test, which starts today at Lord's, likely to undergo a complete overhaul in Birmingham in two weeks' time. James Anderson and Ollie Robinson have been rested here out of precaution and are expected to be fit for the first Ashes Test, while Mark Wood will use the next fortnight to get his loads up, having sat out the latter stages of the IPL on paternity leave. He has not played since mid-April.

With Matthew Potts (playing this week) and Chris Woakes (not playing) in reserve, England have strong backup for their principal swing and seam-style bowlers: Stuart Broad, Anderson and Robinson.

With injuries to Jofra Archer and Olly Stone, they have less support for Wood, which is the reason that Josh Tongue has been given the nod here instead of Woakes. As well as being a feel-good story, given that Tongue was contemplating retirement not that long ago because of a troublesome shoulder injury, it is an understandable decision.

Tongue is quicker than anyone else in the squad at Lord's this week, with the exception of Wood. While not express pace, he hits the pitch and the splice of the bat hard, and has been among the quickest half-dozen bowlers in English domestic cricket over the past two years. Woakes is a known quantity and utterly reliable; Tongue's temperament for the big occasion is unknown and this is a good chance to find out a little more. Rather now, than for the first time in the Ashes. The uncertainty over Stokes's knee is uncertainty enough.



'Adrenaline will help with

Elizabeth Ammon

Ben Stokes has insisted that he goes into England's Test summer as a genuine all-rounder, but admitted that he might have to rely on adrenaline when bowling.

The England captain has barely bowled since the series in New Zealand in February, where in the final Test he was in visible pain because of a knee problem that will require surgery at some point. But he insists that he can manage for the moment and that he will bowl as and when the match situation dictates this summer.

He has not bowled at all in the nets in the build-up to the match against Ireland that starts today at Lord's, but he insists that is not relevant; and if he doesn't turn his arm over in the next few days that will not affect whether he can bowl during the Ashes that begins on June 16, with the first of five Tests in a little over six weeks.

"The thing about me is that I don't need much bowling for the rest of my body to tick over.

"I can have quite a lot of time off and then build up quite quickly. It's not doom and gloom if I do or don't bowl in this game," Stokes said.

Asked if he can use mind over matter to manage his knee pain, Stokes, who is known to be driven by and thrive on the big occasions, said: "I've tried that a lot. Especially over the winter. But the great thing that sport and being out in the arena gives you is adrenaline.

"So it gives you stuff you're able to do in a game that you probably would not be able to do with training. I might turn up every day and bowl like I have before this little niggle turned up."

Stokes returned from the IPL about a week ago after performing what he describes as the "John Terry role" for Chennai Super Kings.

His involvement in the tournament was restricted to only two matches at the beginning because of a toe and heel injury and then when he returned to



my bowling'

fitness was left out of the side. He says that although he would "rather have been playing" than warming the bench, it was also a good thing for him to be able to manage his fitness and work on his training and some technical things.

"I've then seen it as an opportunity to train as opposed to playing and then topping yourself as the tournament goes along.

"Once you get into the tournament it's like play, travel, all that kind of stuff.

"So, I was actually able to turn a disappointing situation into a positive one because I was able to concentrate on properly being able to train, whether that be technical stuff with the bat or fitness stuff, stuff in the gym and being able to concentrate on something else.

"And that was a really good way to get through that long period of having something else to focus on as opposed to being disappointed I wasn't playing.

"Sitting here today, I'm actually thinking it could have been a blessing in disguise."

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Lord's braced for protests

difficult. The stakes are quite high and the implications are quite high. If it damages the square that's an issue and we have been trying to mitigate for that. We have to hope that common sense prevails but the direction of travel suggests that disruption is a significant risk and we have been planning for it."

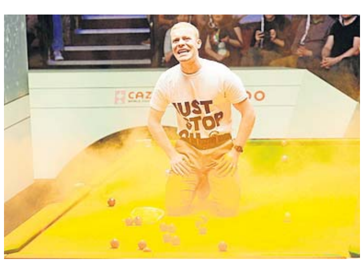
Lavender believes targeting Lord's would be unfair, explaining: "No other ground is doing more on sustainability than we are. We all buy fully into the sustainability agenda. We are going to be carbon neutral by 2030 at the latest if not the next couple of years and net carbon zero by 2040.

"We don't think this sort of action is helping their [the protesters'] cause at all and indeed is damaging the public's perception."

Just Stop Oil activists have disrupted the Gallagher Premiership final between Saracens and Sale Sharks, when two men ran on to the pitch and threw orange powder onto the pitch, and the World Snooker Championships in Sheffield, when orange powder was thrown on the tables. Last week, the Chelsea Flower Show was also targeted.

Cricket is particularly vulnerable to malicious attacks. If the square or pitch is damaged it has the potential to end the game prematurely as it is unlikely that any substance could simply be removed.

In 1975, campaigners calling for the release of a jailed criminal George Davis vandalised the Headingley pitch during an Ashes Test. The protesters dug holes in the pitch and poured oil over one end of the wicket, resulting in the Test being abandoned.



A Just Stop Oil protest disrupted the World Snooker Championship in April

GARETH COPLEY/GETTY IMAGES; RAY LAWRENCE/TGS PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK ; JOHN WALTON/PA



The England players gathered at Lord's for nets practice yesterday with Root, left, and Stokes, below, recently returned from the IPL where they played only three and two games, respectively. Bairstow, above with McCullum and Root, is back in the Test team for the first time since breaking his leg in three places last August



How Tongue has bounced his way to his Test debut

Steve James profiles the tall Worcestershire seamer who turned heads in practice at Lord's this week

Many moons ago, in 1984, Pakistan's under-19s were holding a training camp in Karachi. At the same time, the New Zealand national team were touring and their star Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad wanted some practice.

He asked to bat against the under-19s and was so impressed by a fast left-armer that he ensured the youngster was selected in the BCCP Patron's XI that Miandad was captaining soon afterwards, against the New Zealanders. That player was Wasim Akram and that match was his first-class debut, in which he took a stunning seven for 50 in the first innings, with a one-day international debut coming only two weeks later.

Sometimes when you know, you know. Just as Duncan Fletcher knew when he saw Michael Vaughan bat in the nets during a Yorkshire v Glamorgan match in 1999 in which Vaughan did not score many runs. A Test debut followed that winter.

This is not to place undue pressure on England's latest debutant, the quick bowler Josh Tongue, but rather to emphasise that, despite advances in scouting, tracking and talent identification since Akram's day, sometimes a player can turn heads at practice and receive a summons.

That is clearly what Tongue, 25, has done this week at Lord's. He, and his county, Worcestershire, just expected to be there for the experience and as cover, but now he will be the 711th player to play Test cricket for England.

The practice nets at Lord's can be spicy, and apparently have been again this week, so it was little surprise that Tongue caused the England batsmen a mountain of problems. However, the management liked his work out on the middle practice pitches just as much, doubtless buttressing a recommendation from the England men's managing director, Rob Key, who watched him bowl excellently on slow Sri Lankan pitches for the England Lions in the winter.

In fairness, long before the unusual shoulder injury (thoracic outlet syndrome, when there is compression of the nerves) that nearly forced him out of the game, Tongue was on England's radar. He was selected for the Lions in 2017 and the new national selector at the time, Ed Smith, noted that Tongue had made a lasting impression when he took nine wickets in a County Championship match against Essex in 2018.

Despite good overall figures (162 wickets at 26.04 in 47 first-class matches), Tongue's bare statistics this season in Division Two are not outstanding. But the requirements for Test cricket are very different. Raw numbers do not always tell the story, which is hopefully the case with Tongue's batting, because, while a first-class average of 12.95 may not suggest as much, he has potential, scoring 150 as a 17-year-old in the Birmingham & District League.

Even when going wicketless against Glamorgan, Tongue caught the eye. "He has got something," the Glamorgan coach, Matthew Maynard, says. "He has good pace, good angles of delivery and does enough with it."

We should not expect express pace like Jofra Archer or Mark Wood's — Tongue is generally clocked between 80 and 85mph — but he is tall, at 6ft 3in, and hits the bat high on its blade with often unexpected bounce. His action is open-chested and therefore the natural angle is into the right-hander, but he does have the ability to hold up the odd ball too.

His bowling arm is just beyond the perpendicular, much like his new Test captain, Ben Stokes. And while this is a strength in terms of the angles created, Tongue has been working with his Worcestershire coach, Alan Richardson, on standing taller at the crease and releasing from a position closer to 12 o'clock to swing the ball away from the right-hander more.

Of course, the headlines this season have been about Tongue's dismissal of Steve Smith in the match against Sussex (the leg-before verdict was controversial). Probably more instructive, though, was the caught-behind wicket of Cheteshwar Pujara, who was duped by the angle and ended up fencing with hands away from his body when the ball held its line and bounce.

Tongue's story is heartwarming, not least because of his resilience through injury (he has screws in his back after surgery on a stress fracture). He comes from a cricket-mad family, with his father, Phil, a respected coach and his brother Ryan having played for Worcestershire 2nd XI. Ryan is now captain of Barnards Green in the Birmingham & District League, scoring 77 last weekend against a Moseley side containing Hampshire's Keith Barker.

But at a time when some counties are wondering whether it is worth the time and effort in development to just have players poached by franchises around the world, Tongue's case is a perfect example of a county's purpose, patience and planning. He first appeared for Worcestershire at the age of six, coming through the pathway and academy while studying at King's Worcester, then into the second and first teams, before, now, a Test cap.

The Tongue family and Worcestershire should be proud.

£50,000 payout for bet

Josh Tongue's Test debut has earned a family friend £50,000 from a bet placed 14 years ago.

Tim Piper staked £100 at 500-1 that Tongue would play Test cricket, even though the youngster was only 11 at the time.

The bet is all the more remarkable given that it was placed on the strength of Tongue's leg spin.

"There was this little kid who bowled leg spin, googlies and top spinners," Piper, who played cricket with Tongue's father for Redditch, told BBC Sport.

"It was like Shane Warne."

Sport

Wiegman goes for youth
Lionesses' head coach does not risk Mead in World Cup squad
Page 64



'We're not just set pieces'
Brentford's Frank on why his side is underestimated
Exclusive interview, page 66



Uefa's radical plan for fixed spending cap

Bid to curb financial power of English clubs

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Uefa wants a cap on the total amount that clubs can spend on player wages and transfers in a single season and is working on a proposal that could satisfy the European Union.

The plan, which is being assessed by a new working party for European football, comes amid fears that English clubs could become even more financially dominant under Uefa's new Financial Sustainability Regulations (FSR), which from this year will restrict clubs' spending to a percentage of their annual revenue.

If approved, the cap would run alongside the new regulations, under which clubs in European competition are allowed to spend only 90 per cent of revenues on wages and transfers in 2023, dropping to 80 per cent next year and 70 per cent in 2025.

Some leading continental clubs have pointed out that the FSR could perpetuate the dominance of English clubs, who make up six of the ten richest teams, and 16 of the top 30. The Premier League has also become the biggest force in the international transfer market.

The solution being favoured by Uefa is for a fixed cap every season to run alongside FSR, setting a cash limit on the amount that clubs can spend on wages, transfers and agents' fees — similar to the hard cap in operation in the NFL in the US, where teams can spend up to $224.8 million (£180.7 million) on player contracts. The transfer cost is assessed by Uefa on amortisation, which is the transfer fee spread out over the length of a contract up to a maximum of five years. No absolute level for a cap has been discussed but if approved it would mean that a club could not spend more than the cash limit, even if it was within the 70 per cent of total revenue.

A senior source told The Times that Uefa believes the plan is "the solution" to the issue and is "working on it" to ensure it gets EU approval, but that may mean having to win over all of European football's stakeholders. Although the European Club Association (ECA) headed by the Paris Saint-Germain president, Nasser al-Khelaifi, is understood to be in broad agreement, the European Leagues and the players' union Fifpro have concerns.

The plan has been submitted to a new working group set up to examine ways of increasing the sustainability and competitiveness of European football. The group includes representatives from Uefa, the ECA, the European Leagues and Fifpro. It is also looking at the impact of corporation tax levels in different countries, as that could have a big effect on how much clubs have to spend — for example, the tax large firms have to pay is 13 per cent in Switzerland, 25 per cent in the UK and 27.5 per cent in France.

Last month Aleksander Ceferin, the Uefa president, hinted at the possibility of imposing a fixed spending limit, telling the US media outlet Men in Blazers

Continued on page 67



PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Stokes: I'm still an all-rounder

England captain Ben Stokes shrugged off concerns about his fitness but added that he might have to rely on adrenaline this summer, pages 68-69

Lord's braced for protests

Elizabeth Ammon

Security has been stepped up at Lord's for today's Test between England and Ireland to counter a "significant risk" of disruption from Just Stop Oil protesters.

The warning comes from Guy Lavender, MCC's chief executive, who also tried to dissuade activists from targeting the game by trumpeting the ground's sustainability credentials.

"It's just a misery with the disruption to major sporting events and people's way of life," Lavender said. "All we can do is to continue to prepare for disruption as any sensible ground can do and we have been planning for possible protests for quite a while so we will do our best.

"You can minimise those risks but at a sports ground unless you have a barrier in front of spectators, it is quite

Continued on page 69

City move for £35m Kovacic

Paul Hirst, Tom Roddy

Manchester City have held talks with Mateo Kovacic's representatives as they look to wrap up a deal for the Chelsea midfielder.

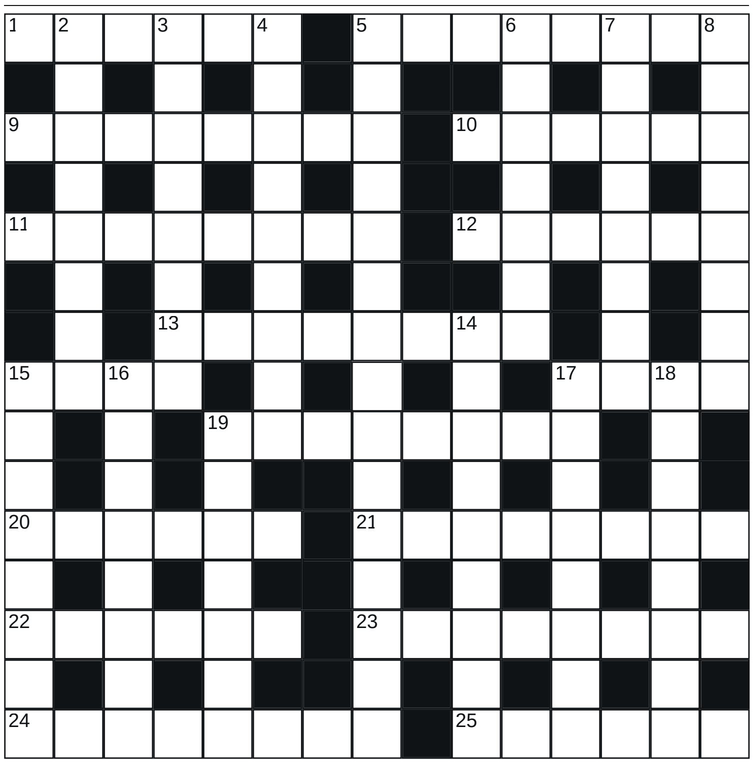
It is understood that positive talks have taken place with Kovacic's camp with regards to personal terms.

The 29-year-old midfielder is open to a move to City. Kovacic has not been notified that he can leave the club, but Chelsea realise they need to trim their squad this summer to comply with Financial Fair Play rules after their failure to qualify for Europe.

Mason Mount has also indicated a desire to leave Stamford Bridge and Manchester United are increasingly confident they will be able to sign the England midfielder who has a year remaining on his contract. By indicating

Continued on page 65

Times Crossword 28,618



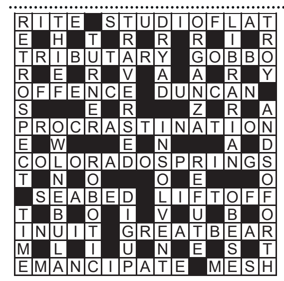
ACROSS

1 Island flat where one can find space and return? (6)
5 Yorkshire town's bridge team, with third person, crushing resistance; bravo! (8)
9 Lied sung after retiring includes lyrics from liturgy (5,3)
10 Flirtatious girl, bubbly sounding, going out regularly (6)
11 Plain policy document the last to go (8)
12 Hack back working following twenty-four hours in Paris (6)
13 Pearly courtesan dancing short tango (8)
15 Curse of Dark Arts every now and again? (4)
17 Page engaged by established Irish clan (4)
19 Worry with gold finish of Lübeck ornamental carving (8)
20 Edison having broken leg (6)
21 Survey potential client (8)
22 Excellent starters of teriyaki, if considerably vinegary (6)
23 Member of ruling clique occasionally moulding curved structure (8)
24 Jam session of maybe sixty minutes? (4,4)
25 Doctor final part of Treasury agreement (6)*

DOWN

2 Expert in chasing work? (8)
3 Part in which true friend stripped, being into that sort of thing (8)
4 Fair attraction sure to have some impact (6,3)
5 Time stuck in two US heliports ruined busy holiday (7-4,4)
6 One from Germany confined to home without energy? Unspeakable (7)
7 Missile sent skywards in anger suits industry (3,5)
8 Old hog somehow features in nomadic home culture (8)
14 Waterworks specialist runs over record kept by Hebridean isles (9)
15 Urbane dweeb intermittently transmitting live (8)
16 The so-called greatest compilers eschewing film VIPs (1-7)
17 Sheik evacuated flying alpine transporter (8)
18 Discount 100 different picture frames (5,3)
19 Fleetingly fashionable, fine hotel outside northern part of African capital (7)

Yesterday's solution 28,617



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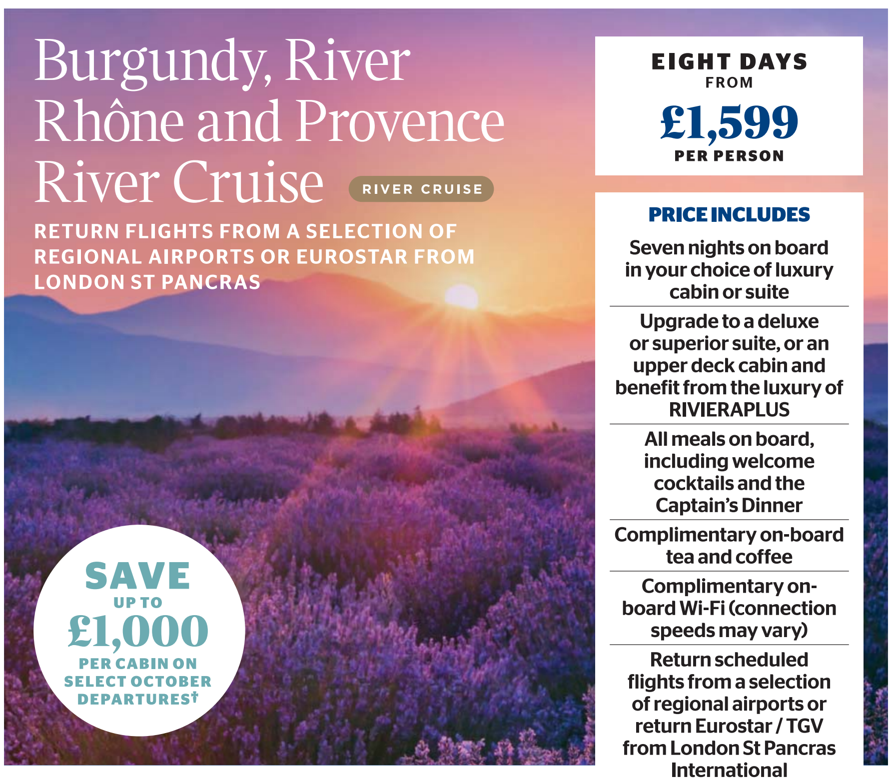
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£1,599
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Thursday June 1, 2023

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15 AUGUST 2023

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- Services of a Riviera Travel Cruise Director and Concierge

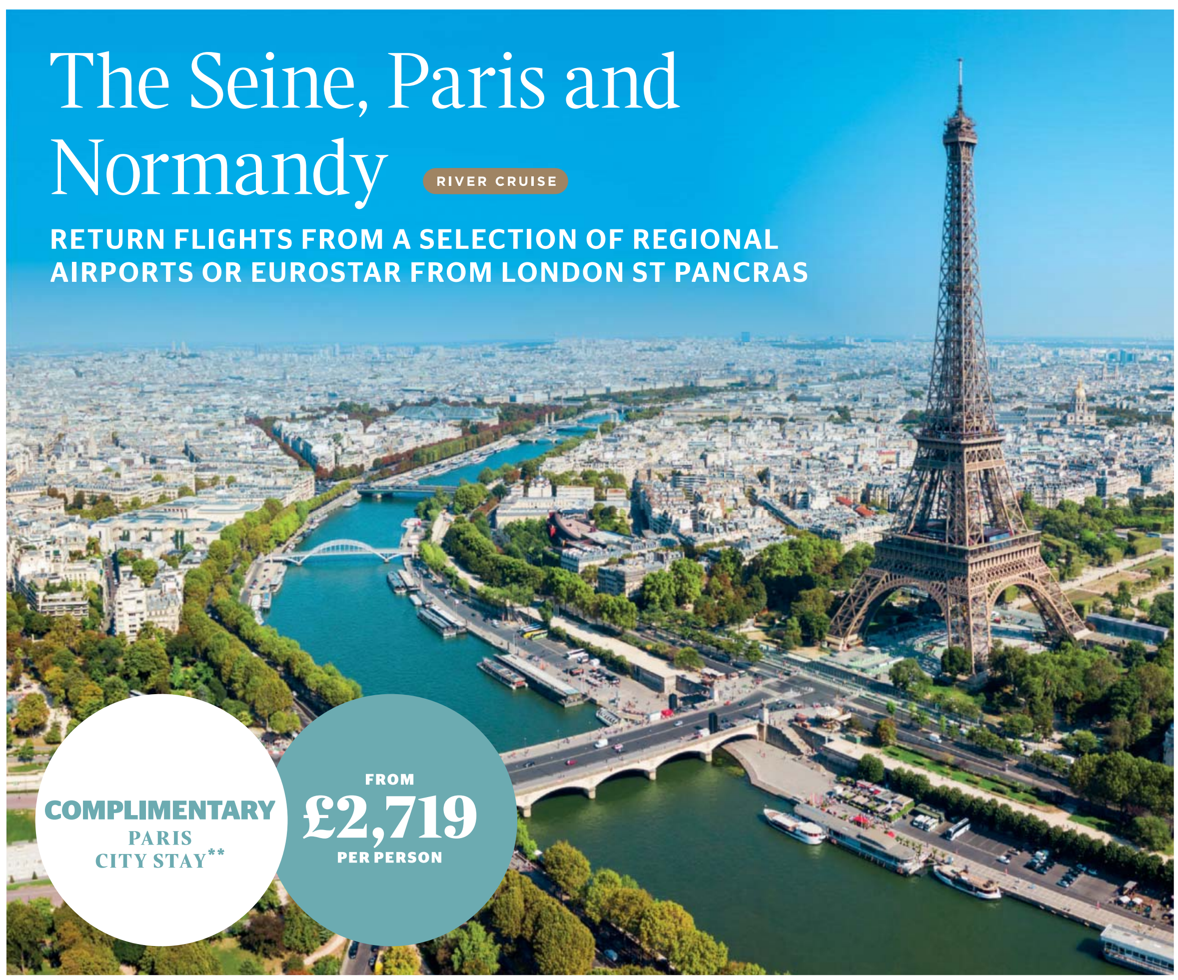
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- Wine tasting in Bernkastel



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Cologne, The Rhine Gorge and Medieval Germany

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NEW CRUISE FOR **2024**

11 DAYS
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- Visit to Braubach, hidden gem of the Rhine
- Drive along the Romantic Road to visit charming Rothenburg
- Sail through the magnificent Rhine Gorge
- On-board Bavarian music night

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Amsterdam, Kinderdijk and the Dutch Bulbfields

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Your Included Experiences

- Two guided tours including iconic Kinderdijk and innovative Rotterdam
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- Classic Amsterdam canal cruise



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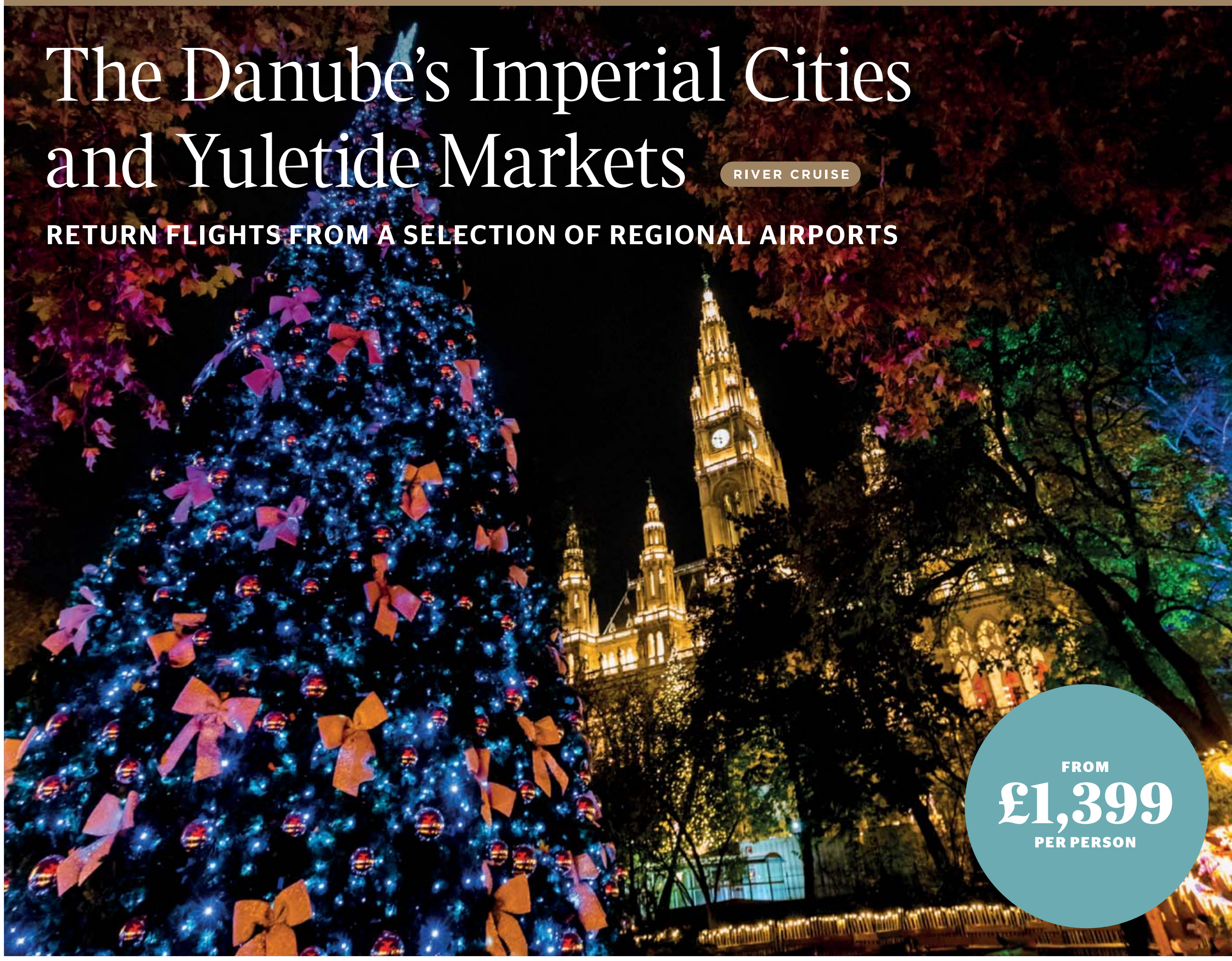
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- All meals on board, including the Captain's Dinner and farewell drinks
- Complimentary on-board tea and coffee
- Complimentary on-board Wi-Fi (connection speeds may vary)
- Return scheduled flights from a selection of regional airports or Eurostar seat from London St Pancras International
- Five-star service from an English-speaking crew and knowledgeable local guides
- Services of a Riviera Travel Cruise Director and Concierge

Your Included Experiences

- Three guided tours including romantic Rüdesheim, charming Koblenz and historic Bonn
- Visit to magnificent Cologne
- Four Christmas market visits including Rüdesheim, Koblenz, Bonn and Cologne

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TIMES2

June 1 | 2023



A battalion of police, three security guards, a tube of glue and a broom cupboard

My mad day at Oxford with Kathleen Stock

By Janice Turner

Take more care about what you recycle, they asked. So I tried…

Deborah Ross





Put less in the recycling bin, the government pleaded this week, because so much of it — crisp packets, juice cartons, toothpaste tubes — can't be recycled and it is contaminating the system. Oh my. Oh dear. It's all the consumer's fault.

This has nothing to do with manufacturers not investing in alternative packaging for certain products, or being forced to do so. They're off the hook. They can sleep nights. The burden, it's on us. We are bad, bad people, you and I.

And get this: putting the wrong items into the bin can mean whole tranches tipped in landfill or dispatched to Malaysia, recyclable items included, because they can't be separated out. Actually, I will revise my initial assessment. We are terrible people, the worst, we mess it up for everyone, hanging's not good enough, and so on. I hate myself.

But I plan to rectify the matter right here, right now, today, this minute. I will set an example. I will be a good citizen, the best. It's all on us, remember. I have an empty Pringles tube in front of me. Cheese & Onion, if that's of interest.

Some say it's all too baffling working out what goes where, that all those recycling symbols are akin to a secret language that's nigh on impossible to decode, and it's far too confusing to be effective. But they're just lazy buggers, that lot. Don't be one of them. Have some self-respect. And you should also remember: we get only one planet.

I will get rid of this Pringles tube, made of "commingled materials", properly and responsibly. It's a rudimentary task. It will take next to no time. I'll be done in a jiffy. The first symbol on the back is a white circular arrow in a green square.

That looks hopeful, I'm not sure why. It's green, I suppose, and the tip of the arrow is like a little heart, as if it's saying: "Let's do this recycling, you and I!" "Yes, let's!" I am minded to shout back. I checked online and it does mean "widely recycled", which is excellent, but then adds: "as accepted by 75 per cent of local authorities".

Bit of a blow, that. Am I one of the lucky 75 per cent? I don't have to phone my council, do I? I'm not that sort of journalist. I look on their website. Nothing about Pringles. But crisp packets, they're a "no". Then I note that under the symbol it says in tiny letters: "lid". So only the lid is recyclable? And only by 75 per cent of local authorities? Is my council a lid-accepting council? I go back to their website. Nothing on lids. Goddammit, I'll have to be that sort of journalist.

I call and ask to be put through to recycling. No one picks up. I look at the lid. "Honey," I say to it, "I guess we'll just have to stick together for now." It doesn't say anything back. It's a lid, for heaven's sake. Give it a break. It doesn't know where it's meant to be. It has its own troubles.

I decide to move on to the next symbol. It says "tube" up top and then "recycle at recycling point" in another green square and

> **I'm Woodward and Bernstein rolled into one by now**

underneath that: "Do not recycle at home." Where is this recycling point they talk of? I go to the Pringles website for guidance.

They have "Bring Banks", apparently. I can do that. I can bring my empty tube to a Bring Bank. I scour the list of locations. There doesn't appear to be one in London. The nearest is Barking and Dagenham which, my phone tells me, is a two hour, 30-minute round trip from my house, if I were to drive.

Or nearly four hours if I were to go by public transport, taking one train and two buses, and then a walk, with the Pringles tube under my arm. It's not most people's idea of a day out but, you know, one planet and all that. You need to stop putting yourself first. It's an ugly habit, if you don't mind me saying.

But what's this? They also have "drop-off points". What are these drop-off points they talk of? The Pringles website redirects me to a company called TerraCycle, to learn about these points, because they're the ones in charge, and what I learn is: they're run by participating members of the public who basically volunteer to collect the tubes around their house, although not exactly.

They get a special bin to put outside. You'd think, because regular Joe's are the problem, they wouldn't trust us to be the solution, that they would do their own dirty work. It's incredibly big-hearted of them. I find my nearest is 1.7 miles away. I get in my car — I'm practically Woodward and Bernstein rolled into one by now — and go to this address. It's a small terraced house on a dangerously busy road where it's impossible to pull up. I have to keep driving up and down to get a good look. There is no bin, as far as I can see.

The final symbol on the tube is a white circular arrow on a black square with "seal" under it. And under that: "Don't recycle". What is a "seal". I can find no mention of it online or anywhere. Is it the metal-ish round thing on the bottom? Or is it the bit under the lid, that you peel back? I don't know, and if I'm honest, the fella on the tube, the one with the exuberant moustache, I think he's looking at me a little tauntingly now.



So here I am, having put in a day's work, and we're still sitting here, my empty tube and I. But it's still all our fault. We need to do better.

The former '30-year-old virgin' who is running for president

Can the only black Republican in the Senate really become America's next leader? David Charter reports

Just over two minutes into the speech that launched his campaign to become president of the United States, Tim Scott called his mother out of the audience to join him. "When you think about the miracle of America, it always comes down to someone who loves unconditionally, who goes the extra mile, who's tough as nails and who puts it all on the line, and for me, it's my mom," he said as Frances Scott entered stage right for her cameo. "Mom, I love you."

The 79-year-old former nurse's assistant continues to play a central role in the life of her unmarried son, the only black Republican in the US Senate, who is aiming to become the first bachelor elected to the White House since Grover Cleveland in 1884.

Scott, 57, a devout pro-life champion, tough fiscal conservative and relentless optimist known for proclaiming that "America is not a racist country", calls his mother at least once every day, and they have a tradition of watching a movie together on Sundays.

He does not have the cult following of Donald Trump or the photogenic wife and kids of Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who is the other leading contender for the Republican nomination, but Scott has something his rivals lack: he is regarded as one of the nicest guys in American politics. "Tim Scott is the most principled politician we have on the playing field out there," said Bakari Sellers, a black Democrat who served alongside Scott in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

He was raised with his brother by his single mother, who worked long shifts to put food on the table in North Charleston, the unglamorous, poorer neighbour of Charleston on the South Carolina coast. They shared the family home with his grandfather Artis Ware, a stoic former cotton picker born in 1921 who drummed into the boys the importance of studying and keeping up with current affairs by looking through the newspaper with them. It was only years later that Scott found out that "Grandaddy" had never learnt to read.

"My family went from cotton to Congress in his lifetime," Scott says. "Because he believed then what some doubt today, in the greatness of America."

He has written about his early lack of self-confidence, particularly in relationships, because of buck teeth that got him the nickname Teet. From the age of 15 he began working at the local cinema to pay to have them fixed. Scott cites his orthodontist, Dr Monte Harrington, who gave him cut-price treatment, as an influence on his young life, although it was another mentor who really turned his life around.

John Moniz was the father of one of his white friends and the manager of a Chick-fil-A franchise. He came into Scott's life just as disaster struck. Scott was his school American football team's star, watched by top colleges likely to offer lucrative scholarships. One morning, after driving his mother to a very early shift shortly before he turned 17, he fell asleep at the wheel, flipped her car and injured his back and ankle, missing his shot at the Ivy League. Moniz, whom he calls his "first father figure" (his mother left his alcoholic father when Scott was seven), opened his eyes to the world of business — that eventually led him to train as an insurance agent and launch his own, highly profitable company. "He taught me that success has less to do with talent than grit," Scott has said. "He taught me biblical principles and conservative values."

Instead of a big-name college, Scott went to Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. He considered joining the clergy but instead transferred to the Baptist College of Charleston and moved back home.

Moniz died of a pulmonary embolism aged 38. Brian, his son, told Politico: "Dad had a mission statement that he wanted to have a positive influence on a million people. When he passed, Tim sat down and wrote his

RICHARD ELLIS/GETTY IMAGES



Tim Scott with Donald Trump in 2015. Below: Scott with his mother, Frances, at a campaign event last week

own mission statement. He wanted to influence a billion people."

Scott was now thinking of a career in politics. He began by proclaiming his evangelical beliefs, promoting himself as a 30-year-old virgin. After 13 years on Charleston county council he was elected to the state house in 2008, then to Congress in 2010.

In Washington Scott wasted no time setting out his conservative credentials, joining the Tea Party Caucus and voting against raising the debt ceiling in a 2011 showdown with President Obama that pushed the US to the brink of default.

Scott's relationship status has always been an enigma, although his memoir *America, a Redemption Story: Choosing Hope, Creating Unity* refers to an unnamed girlfriend helping him to start his insurance company. "As a poor kid growing up, the most important thing for me to do was take care of my mom. And until I had that accomplished, starting a new family was just not an option for me," he told Politico in 2018, adding that he always wanted six kids. He said he was serious with a girlfriend at the time the seat in Congress opened up in 2010 but that the relationship did not survive the demands of running for office. In 2012 he filed a financial declaration with the House of Representatives showing a reimbursement to a think tank for costs on a trip to the Cloister, a luxury resort on the Georgia coast. It showed that Scott took his mother and his "friend" Zee Patel, general manager of the Bits of Lace lingerie store in Charleston. A spokesman for Scott told The Washington Post that Patel was a "family friend".

That year Scott was asked by an interviewer about his stance on abstinence 16 years after declaring he was still a virgin. "The Bible's right. You're better off to wait. I just wish we all had more patience," the congressman replied, hinting that he had not strictly adhered to scripture.

Scott recently welcomed legislation in South Carolina to ban abortion once cardiac activity can be detected, after about six weeks. He has also said: "If I were president of the United States, I would literally sign the most conservative pro-life legislation that they can get through Congress."

In 2013 Nikki Haley, the South Carolina governor, elevated him to a Senate seat vacated by a retiring member. Scott now finds himself competing with Haley in the contest for the 2024 Republican nomination.

Scott earned criticism for keeping his head down during the Trump presidency, but one exception came after Trump's comments that there were "very fine people on both sides" after the deadly Unite the Right demonstrations attended by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Scott told an interviewer: "I believe the president has compromised his moral authority to lead." The White House called. "Senator Scott, President Trump would love to have a chat with you."

In Scott's telling, when he walked into the Oval Office for the first time later that day, he found himself facing Trump, the vice-president, Mike Pence, and the chief of staff, John Kelly. "OK, Tim. I saw your interview yesterday. You and I don't see that situation the same. I really want to hear what you have to say," Trump said. Scott spent 20 minutes talking about his grandfather's and mother's struggles, and that while America has come a long way on overcoming racism, "many people like to pretend the journey is already complete".

He said he told the president: "Any comment that could even be slightly construed as positive towards white supremacists is just wrong." Trump asked what Scott thought he could do, giving him an opening to talk about his idea for "opportunity zones" to bring private investment into deprived areas where mainly ethnic minorities lived. Trump agreed. Scott added Opportunity Zones to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and says that in the next five years $75 billion was leveraged into the poorest postcodes.

Scott has not earned much kudos for the programme, but did get a lot of US media coverage for his response to Joe Biden's first address to Congress as president. He leaned into the debate over the teaching of race in schools, saying: "A hundred years ago, kids in classrooms were taught the colour of their skin was their most important characteristic — and if they looked a certain way, they were inferior. Today, kids again are being taught that the colour of their skin defines them — and if they look a certain way, they're an oppressor."

The phrase that attracted the most comment came next: "You know this stuff is wrong. Hear me clearly: America is not a racist country."

Within minutes the slur "Uncle Tim" was trending on Twitter. This was a twist on "Uncle Tom", an insult to black people perceived as subservient based on the main character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Does he stand a chance at becoming the first black Republican president? Some commentators see a pathway, however narrow. "Sometimes frontrunners destroy each other and leave room for a breakout candidate to run up the middle," wrote Matt Lewis, a senior columnist at the Daily Beast. "Scott's amiable and positive persona would stand in stark contrast to the personalities of Trump and DeSantis."

The question of his bachelor status won't go away, and at an Axios question-and-answer event in Washington this week Scott sprang a surprise. Asked what he would say to voters who "may be hesitant to vote for a single man", he joked that he knew about family values because "I think we've all been children", then dropped a personal bombshell: he is dating. After saying that half the adult American population is single, he added: "I will simply say that I probably have more time, more energy and more latitude to do the job, and my girlfriend wants to see me when I get home."

Nine days after he launched his campaign for the White House, this was Scott's first ever public mention of a live-in partner.

Ultimately it is probably more realistic to see Scott's entry into the 2024 race as a campaign to be running mate for Trump or DeSantis. The field of potential vice-presidential candidates mentioned for Trump contains no one nearly as likeable; he could clearly help to make Trump more acceptable, and not just to black voters. Trump likes him: he called up Frances to congratulate her on her 75th birthday at Scott's request, and went a step further the next year, inviting her onto Air Force One, again at her son's request. "Tim, you are one lucky man to have such an incredible mama," Trump told him. Scott replied: "I couldn't agree more, sir."

Perhaps he is simply putting down a marker. Lewis added: "Although it's a long shot, the notion that he could somehow emerge as the leading Republican contender for 2028 would provide a glimmer of hope for us otherwise homeless conservatives."

> "The Bible's right. You're better off to wait



The lowdown
Anna Wintour

New York has the Met Gala, now here's Anna Wintour with a version for us Brits.

The big black-tie hoo-ha run by Voguettes? I didn't realise it was a franchise.

It's not. And, look, I know what you're thinking.

That's presumptuous.

You're wondering whether the world needs another celebrity fashion orgy/costume party thinly veiled as a charity event.

Maybe not in so many words, but yes — a similar sentiment did cross my mind.

Well, good news! This London bash will not be one of those. It's very different. Very.

Oh really? Will there be celebrities and a red carpet? A catwalk? Performance from a pop star for the glitterati in attendance?

Yes. However!

Stopping you there to flag my scepticism.

OK, noted, but listen. There are distinctions. Unlike the Met Gala, this party will have no theme. It is being held in a theatre instead of a museum (albeit the V&A would have made a fine Met-alt) and, most important, the public can buy tickets.

Hang on — muggles can go too?

Yes, to the tune of £150 a head.

About the price of a Beyoncé gig, then. Do you think she'd be there?

Maybe. Stormzy, Naomi Campbell and Sadiq Khan are reportedly on the bill so far. The event, being spearheaded by Wintour in her capacity as global head of fashion (unofficial job title), will feature a runway show — presumably showcasing the best of British fashion and style — and live performances directed by Stephen Daldry. It will be held at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London and all proceeds will fund the city's arts scene.



Hmm. It may surprise you, but I've not got a bad word to say about that.

Hannah Rogers

Mounted police are on standby, her bodyguard is with us: 'Some people really don't like me'

The gender-critical academic Kathleen Stock spoke at the Oxford Union this week. Janice Turner went with her



In the car to Oxford, Kathleen Stock tells me about the launch party for her first book, an academic treatise on the relationship between fiction and the imagination. Two friends, both fellow philosophers, stood up and savagely ripped it apart. I'm rather shocked. Wasn't she expecting white wine and applause?

Stock laughs. (She laughs a lot.) "Philosophy is a very combative discipline. We expose the weak spots in each other's arguments. Test them to destruction. It can be brutal. But afterwards we all go to the pub." In the front seat, her friend Rob, another philosophy professor, guffaws.

Today Stock's belief that difficult ideas can — in fact, must — be discussed is about to collide with the view prevalent on British campuses that some ideas are beyond debate: in particular, the thesis of her latest book, *Material Girls*, that biological sex is concrete and immutable, while trans identity is an "immersive fiction", which however life-enhancing must, in circumstances where women are vulnerable (such as sport, prisons and refuges), cede to reality.

Stock's stance is both banal, in that most humans on Earth share it, and weapons-grade toxic, since those who disagree are vehement and occasionally violent. (I've witnessed women physically menaced, even punched, windows hammered, smoke flares let off.) When the Oxford Union asked Stock to speak, the university's LGBTQ+ society — the biggest on campus — demanded the invitation be rescinded and Stock was decried as a "notorious transphobe". A public war of letters and petitions ensued, some calling for her to be deplatformed, others for free speech.

Then, with Stock's onstage interview going ahead, the Oxford LGBTQ+ society prepared with a weekend-long programme in her dishonour: a placard-making session and 14 "welfare events", culminating with a panel on "Trans Joy Across Generations", leading to a march upon the Union where, an email warned, "some heated interactions are likely".

I meet Stock and Rob in London, where a car will take us to Oxford since the Union believes it unsafe for her to arrive by train. Stock, 50, is already fizzing with adrenaline because the trains from her home in Sussex were all cancelled and she had to grab a minicab to London. The plan was to be inside the Union well before the march descends. But we're already an hour late.

Stock, who has a keen sense of the ridiculous, snorts in horror at her pinging phone. An Oxford friend has sighted protesters carrying two huge drums. The Union tells her mounted police are on standby. It is closing off half the balcony so people can't drop things on her. The LGBTQ+ group has created a safe space at Brasenose College, stocked with energy bars and earplugs, if her presence makes people too stressed.

Stock produces a baseball cap and sunglasses. "It's my Kendall Roy look." Because at 6ft tall, androgynous, with cropped grey hair, she is a striking woman. In her home town she's left alone. But The Lesbian Project, which she recently co-founded to "stop women getting erased from the LGBT rainbow", receives vicious threats and a protest at its inaugural event was led by Sarah Jane Baker, a trans activist who served 30 years for torture, kidnap and attempted murder.

Is she nervous? "Yes!" she cries, then tells Rob and me not to be too nice "or I'm likely to cry". She says Oxford has never been a happy place for her: it was where she delivered her first ever philosophy paper to "terrifying Oxford postgrad students who were cerebral and robotic. I was nearly sick." Stock is an odd mix of steely and vulnerable. She's no bombastic, come-at-me blowhard like Jordan Peterson, who courts controversy, surfs opprobrium. When, as a philosophy professor at Sussex University, she published her first gender-critical blog, causing



Kathleen Stock arrives at the Oxford Union on Tuesday evening with Janice Turner, far left. Below: Stock during the talk with the Union president Matthew Dick

> **"Every hero's journey needs a dragon to slay, and maybe I'm the dragon**

students and colleagues to denounce her, Stock fell into depression, wept and drank too much gin. Yet, as she told me two years ago, she wouldn't, couldn't recant. In fact, she kept writing: "I had to keep meeting every blow."

At the Cambridge Union in November, supporting the motion "This House Believes in the Right to Offend", Stock was horrified when the undergraduate supposedly on her side, with whom she'd just dined, instead stood to denounce her. (This strapping 6ft 2in male, now non-binary, claims to feel unsafe on the streets because of views like Stock's.) Yet although she has no regrets about leaving academia after being hounded from Sussex, she misses teaching, likes young people and genuinely cares what they think.

As we approach Oxford, Stock grows tense and silent. We park down a back street and, checking her phone, she sees that Rishi Sunak has tweeted her good luck: "So bizarre." Then she puts on her Kendall Roy gear. Is it necessary? "Some people really don't like me, Janice!" she says, half-laughing. Then three Union security staff, including Stock's female bodyguard, Ash, march us down a pedestrian precinct, past camera crews, through the Union gates, upstairs through a panelled library where students look up whispering — and into a broom cupboard.

"It's not our usual room for guests," says Matthew Dick, Union president, as we sit among cleaning products, folded high chairs and tea towels. "But we didn't want people to know you're here." Trans activists including

COVER AND BELOW: DAN KENNEDY FOR THE TIMES; TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE; REX FEATURES; PA





Protesters gathered in Oxford in the run-up to the talk at the Union

Munroe Bergdorf recently addressed the Union. Did they need heavy security or to hide in the broom cupboard? "Er, no." Dick couldn't find *Material Girls* in Blackwell's bookshop and was embarrassed to ask someone to locate it. Has he suffered abuse for upholding Stock's invitation? "Not much. But my elected successor, a woman, has had loads."

Below the broom cupboard window, a queue lengthens: it's a packed house, the biggest Union meeting this year. Stock sinks a glass of red wine. No sign yet of protesters, until a speaker blaring out *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* approaches and a megaphone broadcasts slogans of trans joy like "cut your system, f*** your hate, we are not open for debate". A few hundred are gathered with pink and blue flags, while a couple of older, pro-Stock women silently wave suffragette colours.

Stock has changed into her signature tailored suit. "Button done or undone?" She's ready for battle, an oddly perfect combatant for the gender wars. Moderate, mild-mannered, dry and funny; a gender-non-conforming lesbian, with a wife and baby girl, besides two teenage sons from a straight marriage. But also, tempered in the crucible of philosophy and by bullies who ostracised her as a child in Scotland for her precocious height and English accent, she is afraid neither of being unpopular nor of opposing views.

> **"Philosophy is a very combative discipline. We expose the weak spots in each other's arguments**

Finally, we and our security detail head over to the ancient debating chamber with two red thrones set upon the stage. There are about 500 people, mainly young, and Stock enters to prolonged applause, with a few standing in ovation. Dick, an Etonian who says he's not at all nervous, conducts the interview, fiercely taking her on. Stock remains unruffled. At one point, she asks him to define gender and Dick ums and ahs over this most nebulous of concepts until the crowd erupts in mirth.

We are about 15 minutes in, Stock talking about how self-ID weakens social norms that protect women in private spaces, when there's a kerfuffle. Two people exit, unfurling a trans flag and scattering leaflets which say: "We grieve for our trans siblings who have lost their lives on waiting lists, we grieve for those who have been murdered." Then a slight young protester moves to sit front and centre of the stage, removes a jacket to reveal a T-shirt that says "No More Dead Trans Kids" and produces a tube. There's a weary cry of "oh no" as the activist glues a hand to the wooden floor, then sits silent and cross-legged like a sadhu.

What to do? Pulling the hand away is ruled out: the Union has received flak for bundling out protesters before. Two police arrive in surgical gloves, look at the hand, then go away again. Half an hour passes. There are chants of "free speech! free speech!" Stock sits back, looking amused. Someone suggests putting a blanket over the protester and carrying on. Rob and I discuss our misadventures with superglue, which never sticks when you need it to.

Then six police officers return, one of whom leafs through a laminated manual until she finds the right page and then speaks with the young protester — a very well-spoken they/them called Riz — as if the poor thing has fainted at a concert, not disrupted a public event. Softener is applied to the glue, Riz's hand is released and the student leaves to applause (both sincere and sarcastic) to rejoin the other "trans siblings" in triumph beyond the gates, from where the Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams* and megaphone chants drift into the hall.

Death is the subject of the leaflet and Riz's T-shirt: that if trans children are not given puberty blockers and hormones, that if trans adults are not granted entry to sports or changing rooms, they will kill themselves. Stock unpicks this, stating how Stonewall's statistics are flawed, that even the Tavistock child gender clinic notes suicide is rare, that the Samaritans warn against attributing such deaths to a single cause.

All the gnarliest issues of the gender debate are raised. How can Stock oppose a bill banning conversion therapy for trans kids? Because we must be careful to allow adolescents space to develop, she states, before giving them heavy-duty drugs that sterilise and prevent them having orgasms. (There's a murmur: students are known to be in favour of orgasms.) Asked about trans women in single-sex facilities, she argues that millions given to Stonewall would be better spent creating third spaces, so everyone feels comfortable. Sometimes she says she doesn't know, that she doesn't have all the answers. I suspect those who came having not read her book are surprised by her infuriating reasonableness.

We are on to questions. Arms shoot up and two dispatch boxes as seen in parliament (no wonder so many Union presidents become prime ministers) are placed on a central table. Stock stands at one, while an audience member questions her from the other. Some are hostile, most are broadly supportive. The most thoughtful is from a young woman I'm later told is a lesbian who, having written a student newspaper article defending Stock's right to speak, has been banned from Oxford LGBTQ+ meetings.

The meeting ends abruptly: Dick has been told not to request one final question for fear this will signal a last-ditch protest. Stock is asked why she is so controversial and she says that those outside — now playing *These Boots Are Made for Walkin'* — have probably not read her book. "They want a baddie. And I'm afraid I'm the baddie, but I'm a shit baddie," she says. "Every hero's journey needs a dragon to slay, and maybe I'm the dragon."

Then security briskly march Kathleen, Rob and me back across the courtyard and into the Union building. This time, free from the broom cupboard, we're allowed to drink in a library. How did Stock think it went? She's pink-cheeked, tired but relieved: "I can't tell, really. It's all a blur." Beyond the walls, the activists angry they did not prevail are chanting "f*** the Union". Eventually they all peel away and it's considered safe to head for the car. Stock is applauded as she walks across the garden and chased by camera crews outside who ask if she's pleased by the prime minister's support. "Yeah," she says. "Why not?"

Armed with the rest of the red wine, Rob and Stock are heading back to London, laughing and catching up on philosophy world gossip. I take the train, thinking about this strange, if amusing, waste of a day. A battalion of police, three security guards, a tube of glue and a broom cupboard. Just for one woman to state what most of us already think.

You can now whip up some milk.co.uk/recipes/pancakes without milk!

How do we celebrate the launch of our new plant-based drinks? By sending you to a dairy website! That may seem kind of unexpected, but here's the thing: Our new products work the same way as milk in coffee, tea, smoothies, porridge and cereal – as well as for cooking and baking. We figured, why not share a site that has a range of great recipes already? Those milk people even put the recipes into practical categories such as "breakfast", "dinner" and "party food" which, we assume, means food you serve at parties and not food that likes to party. And all those dishes can now be made without the cow's milk and without the higher climate impact of cow's milk.*





* According to a recent study, comparable cow's milk has a 2.4, 2.5 and 2.7 times higher climate impact than Oatly Whole, Oatly Semi and Oatly Skimmed (Light), respectively, sold in the UK. Derived from: Blonk Consultants (2023), LCA of Oatly "No" Sugars and Oatly Oat Drink (Whole/Semi/Light), and comparison with cow's milk. Blonk Sustainability, Gouda, the Netherlands. Stages include raw material to point of sale and packaging waste management for average litre produced in the Netherlands and sold in the UK. Findings subject to assumptions, limitations, conclusions and critical review statement.

Still love Ocado? Me neither

It was the online supermarket that the middle class relied on — not so much now, says Harry Wallop

KATIE WILSON FOR THE TIMES; ALAMY





Harry Wallop

Have you seen the future? I have. In 2020 I was in a vast warehouse outside Erith, Kent, where 2,000 robots the size of washing machines were mesmerically moving around in an operation that seemed to combine 3D chess and *Supermarket Sweep*. The robots helped human workers to pack grocery items into bags at the rate of 400 an hour, a pace no normal shopper could match.

Run by Ocado, the warehouse was, the company's bosses said, proof that the online supermarket wasn't really a retailer but a technology company. And plenty enough reason why it was valued at an astonishing £21.7 billion, more than Tesco (£21 billion), a chain with a century of heritage and more than 4,000 stores in the UK. Ocado doesn't own a single shop.

At the time, its co-founder and chief executive, Tim Steiner, told me that Ocado was at the "forefront of global change" and was helping to "destroy" the old supermarkets. Now? It is worth just £3.1 billion — although it remains in the FTSE 100 index of the UK's most valuable companies, despite speculation that it would be demoted.

In part, this fall from grace mirrors the collapse in value of a host of online companies that boomed in the lockdowns. Peloton, the exercise bike that offered online classes; Zoom, the video-conferencing software; Roku, the video-streaming platform: all are worth dramatically less than when we were stuck at home. But is something else going on at Ocado? Has the supermarket of choice to the quinoa-munching classes lost its mojo?

If you speak to loyal customers, and I am one, there is a sense that it isn't as special as it once was. Its customer service used to be exemplary and its drivers were the closest some of us got to having a 21st-century Jeeves: they'd bring your bags to the kitchen table; if you asked nicely, they'd unpack them too. In those days, with your fifth shop, you got a free bottle of champagne; any broken items were refunded and a voucher given as an apology.

During Covid, like all online delivery companies, they dumped your goods on your doorstep and retreated. Ocado insists that it stopped the no-crossing-of-the-threshold policy in March, but if I ask drivers to bring my shopping in, most of them merely move the bags a foot inside the threshold, making it impossible to close the door. I find this peculiarly enraging.

One insider says that all the drivers have been trained but admits "it is taking longer than we wanted to get everyone to follow the new process".

A friend who lives down the road from me complains that she's switched to Asda.com for a number of reasons. One is because "no matter what time I booked the delivery for, it would be early. Sometimes 30 minutes, sometimes several hours. It was so bizarre. At first I didn't mind, if I was in I'd just accept it" — and the company's policy is that you have the choice to turn down an early delivery and they will come back later. "This sounds like a minor inconvenience but it was every time for around a dozen deliveries in a row. Yes, this is such a first-world problem, but then again Ocado charges first-world prices."

Ocado acknowledges that standards slipped last year as it adjusted to the post-lockdown boom, but says that things are back to pre-Covid levels.

> "They have great choice, but Ocado is expensive

Hannah Gibson, the chief executive of Ocado Retail, the UK arm that delivers Marks & Spencer groceries, told me: "Customer service and the customer experience has been improving materially over the last six months or so. And we can see it in customers' feedback, the numbers and how they're shopping."

It is true that when it reported its annual results two months ago, the number of active customers reached 951,000, up nearly 14 per cent on last year. But customers are putting fewer items into their online shopping baskets: at the height of lockdowns the average online Ocado basket had 56 products in; now it is 45 items.

"It is not an Ocado thing; basket size across the whole industry is down," Gibson says. That, again, is true. But if you are Tesco or Sainsbury's, that's not such a problem. Sure, people are putting less pizza or wine into their online baskets, but they will probably go to a Tesco Express or Sainsbury's Local store midweek for that bottle of merlot and a sloppy Giuseppe. If you are an Ocado shopper, your top-up has to be with a rival.

Perhaps the biggest complaint long-time loyalists have with Ocado is that the availability is not as good as it once was. The company offers well in excess of 50,000 products, many more than Tesco, Asda or any rival can offer. Aldi has as few as 4,000. And by no means is all the food from M&S, the supermarket Ocado struck a deal with in 2020 after it fell out acrimoniously with Waitrose. It has negotiated with all sorts of specialists, be it the Spanish deli Brindisa, or small independent producers such as JD's Hot Honey and Kim Kong Kimchi.

But with that choice comes the occasional large gap on its online shelves. On Thursday afternoon last week, of the 151 ground coffees that it stocks, 16 were out of stock; with chickpeas it was 17 out of 99, and when it came to beef burgers it was a rather alarming 16 out of 32 products. Linda Bateman, a customer, wrote on Trustpilot the same day: "I've been an Ocado [shopper] for at least 15 years and they've always been brilliant. Excellent customer service and top notch delivery experience. However, lately I've become extremely frustrated at the constant 'out of stock' items. A couple of times I've just had to cancel the order because so much was unavailable it wasn't worth proceeding."

A company spokesman suggested I — and Linda — had got unlucky and there had been a surge of orders before the bank holiday weekend. That's possible and, indeed, 24 hours later most of the missing burgers were back in stock. But Ocado used to be reliably world-beating; it isn't any more.

"The reality is they have great choice," Black says. "But the biggest factor is more people are working from home so have time to go to a supermarket and Ocado is expensive. People are trying to save money."

In April, the consumer group Which? said that a basket of 39 items cost £69.99 at Aldi, £78.09 at Tesco and £83.69 at Ocado. Only Waitrose was more expensive at £87.33. Over the course of a year, if you shopped weekly at Ocado rather than Aldi, you could be about £700 worse off.

Ocado recently introduced a Tesco price promise, whereby it refunds you the difference in the form of vouchers if like-for-like products are cheaper at Tesco. The benefit of these vouchers are not included in the Which? price comparison. Annoyingly, you have to sign up for the scheme even if you've already paid £89.99 for an annual smartpass (it gives you free delivery).

Three years ago Steiner claimed that the company could in a matter of a few years be turning over half a trillion pounds. That's because Ocado doesn't just deliver groceries in the UK; it supplies its technology to lots of companies around the world and takes a cut in the process. But Steiner's maths rests on the assumption that we'll soon buy 50 per cent of all our groceries over the internet. During lockdowns the proportion of food and drink shopping we did online doubled from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent. But it has subsequently dropped to 10.5 per cent. Most of us still like to prod the cod and inspect the avocados.

Most of Ocado's rivals have decided running dedicated, robotic warehouses is an expensive way of fulfilling online orders. Instead, they use so-called dark stores (shops with no shoppers) or they get workers to "pick" your order, dashing around with a trolley. It's not very high-tech, but it doesn't require billions of pounds and years of investment before a single pint of milk can be put into your online basket.

Perhaps Steiner and his team need to worry less about changing the world and concentrate on once again making Ocado the best supermarket in the UK. Because, for now, it seems to be charging premium prices for something that isn't premium enough.

How much?

Ocado large free-range eggs, 12-pack, £2.80
Aldi Merevale large British free-range eggs, 12-pack, £2.65

Ocado spaghetti, 500g, 80p
Aldi Cucina spaghetti, 500g, 75p

Ocado Italian chopped tomatoes, 400g, 55p
Asda Just Essentials chopped tomatoes, 400g, 35p

Ocado red seedless grapes, 500g, £2.25
Sainsbury's red seedless grapes, 500g, £2

Ocado British medium whole chicken, £4.88
Aldi Ashfields British medium whole chicken, £3.79

Ocado British lamb mince 20 per cent fat, 500g, £5.65
Tesco British lamb mince 20 per cent fat, 500g, £5.10

arts

‘Warhol would have loved AI.

Bob Colacello, photographer, writer and close friend of Andy Warhol, tells Rachel Campbell-Johnston about life with the artist and wild nights at Studio 54

When opportunity knocks, open the door. That’s what Bob Colacello was told by his mother. So he did. And the entire party scene of Manhattan swept in. Colacello was there with his camera to capture it on film.

Forget your faded old photographs: the red eyes and flushed faces of people you are no longer friends with, the dishevelled frocks that are decades out of fashion, the mad antics of which you have long forgotten the point. From the beginning of the Seventies until 1982, Colacello was right at the centre of Andy Warhol’s bright circle. His haphazard snapshots of film stars and socialites, designers and drag queens, Park Avenue hostesses and their mega-rich husbands, bohemian beauties and various handsome hangers-on capture the spirit of a devil-may-care age that has gone.

“It was a very defined era,” says Colacello, 76, when I catch up with him in his New York office over Zoom. “Everything felt new and fresh. Vietnam was over. Aids had not begun. There was no dreary political correctness. Nixon was gone, but the Reagan era, when yuppies replaced hippies, when everyone had an MBA instead of an MFA, had not yet arrived. New York was cheap, it was open. It was in crisis financially, crime was everywhere. But it was very creative. And we, the baby boomer generation, were just coming out of college. We just wanted to have fun.”

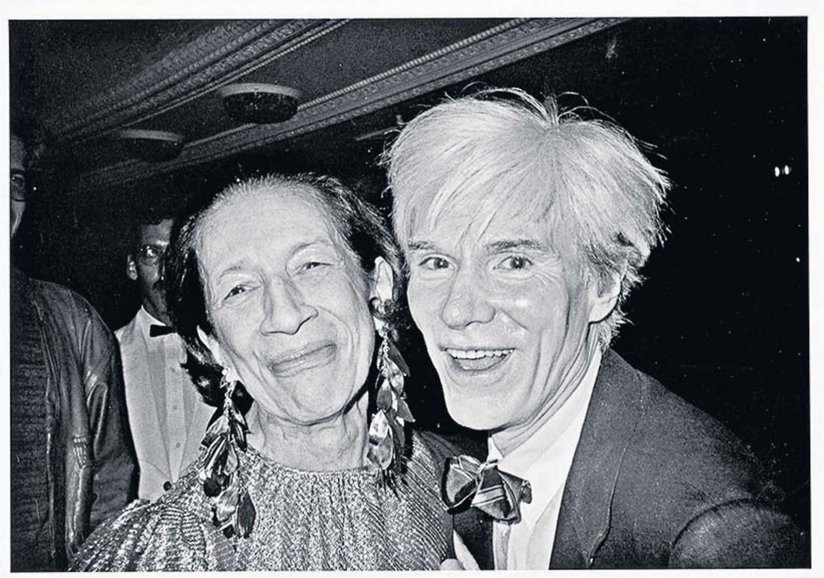
It is their world of dancing and drinking and driving stretch limos, of snorting and holidaying and hanging out that you will find captured in *It Just Happened* at Thaddaeus Ropac in Mayfair, London.

> “The left has put us back in the boxes the puritans put us in the Sixties

“Everyone wanted to mix with everyone,” he says. “Studio 54 was like the culmination of this.” You could meet anyone, he explains, from Moshe Dayan, the Israeli statesman with a signature eye patch, to the notoriously foul-mouthed John McEnroe. “But you sort of had to have something to offer: you had to be rich or famous or super-accomplished or stylish or something. Studio 54 was a democracy on the dancefloor. But it was a dictatorship at the door.”

Colacello, a middle-class boy from the suburbs, had originally set off on a rather different course. He had read international relations at Georgetown University in Washington and thought that he might become a diplomat. But he soon found himself dreaming of becoming the next Bernardo Bertolucci and began studying film, making money on the side with reviews for The Village Voice. He was still living with his parents when, out of the blue, he got a call inviting him to meet Warhol, who, having recently started a magazine, wanted him to write. “My father was like, ‘I forbid you to go and meet that creep who makes films about boys who want to be girls,’ but for me at that time it was all about Warhol, Mick Jagger and William Burroughs. They were the rebels and they were my idols, and I couldn’t wait.”

Within six months Colacello had become the editor of Interview and for the next 12 years he would remain directly involved in all aspects of





Warhol’s life and business as he developed the magazine into one of the most influential lifestyle publications of the times. His new show — the first solo exhibition of his photos to come to London — presents snapshot moments from this world.

One image finds a young Jagger with Jerry Hall, his girlfriend, at his side. “Jerry became the new It girl when she started going out with Mick, but when I put her on the cover of



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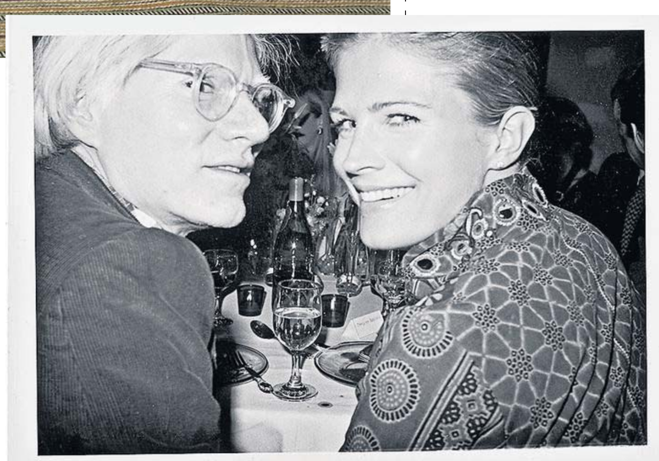
He loved all new technology’

MIKE MCGREGOR FOR THE TIMES; BOB COLACELLO





Left: Bob Colacello. Far left: Andy Warhol with Diana Vreeland, top, and Warhol with André Leon Talley and Bianca Jagger. Above: Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall and Garech Browne. Below: Warhol and Candice Bergen



Interview, where Bianca [Jagger’s ex-wife] had already been a couple of times, [Bianca] stopped talking to me for about six months.”

Another photo shows Warhol staring intently while Joseph Beuys writes (or perhaps draws) in a book. These two artists were not friends. They were so different in too many ways. And yet this image conjures a sense of their respect for each other’s talent. A meeting between them, as the American art critic David Bourdon put it, “had all the ceremonial aura of two rival popes meeting in Avignon”.

One of Colacello’s most popular pictures finds Warhol taking room-service breakfast. You will certainly recognise the figure hunched behind an extravagant arrangement of flowers. But have you seen him before with food stuffed into his mouth? The “hard fake look” that Warhol would put on as soon as he spotted a camera is missing. “He’s wearing what he usually slept in: his Brooks Brothers shirt from the night before and his socks,” Colacello says. “He never changed to go to bed.”

Colacello found much to admire in Warhol. “It’s an art world cliché, but the two greatest artists of the 20th century are Picasso for the first half and Warhol for the next. They were both more than artists: they were cultural signifiers, they were icons, they were avatars. Sometimes people questioned Andy’s talent because of his pursuit of fame, his branching out into movies and magazines. But his work is about more than just painting. It’s about sociology and philosophy.” That’s why so many creative people flocked to him, Colacello says. “Cy Twombly [the artist] and Robert Wilson [the theatre director] would come to lunch at the Factory. The first time I went to London we had tea with David Hockney. Truman Capote was a regular,” he says. His conversation is a flow of famous names. A single story can contain an entire fistful: Elizabeth Taylor, John Paul Getty III (“who unfortunately had his ear sliced off”), Diana Vreeland (“I called her the empress of fashion”), Paloma Picasso (“He would constantly be quizzing her about her father, with whom he was obsessed”).

“Andy was so nonjudgmental. He would say, ‘Maybe it’s good, maybe it’s not good’,” Colacello says, doing a startlingly accurate imitation of the artist’s laconic drawl. “I think that appealed. But he had a stronger willpower than anyone else I’ve ever met. He was very funny too. I have photos in which you see him laughing up a storm. You never really see him guffawing, but he did. He was the Oscar Wilde of Union Square, not the Virginia Woolf. But he was also dead serious in everything that he did. His ambition knew no bounds.

“There was a strong melancholy side to Andy too,” he adds. “He tried to cover it up by pretending to be a dumb blond.” Was he lonely, I wonder? “The Netflix documentary [*The Andy Warhol Diaries*] on Andy emphasised that a little, or rather a lot, too much,” Colacello says. “But the word that he used more than any other was beauty’. ‘He’s a beauty’, or ‘She’s a beauty’. ‘Don’t you wish that you were a beauty, Bob?’ He really wished that he could be a beauty,” says Colacello, who, at the end of *Holy Terror*, his 1990 biography of Warhol, made a list of all the products that the artist kept in his bathroom cabinet. “There were, like, 50 skin creams,” he remembers. “My biggest problem is my skin,” Warhol would quip. “He became cynical as a defence,” Colacello says. If a couple were getting married, his first reaction would be, “Which one has the money?” “Falling into a tub of butter” was his phrase for a marriage to someone rich. “If they both had money, Andy would say, ‘Oh, is he gay? Is this a cover-up?’ And when I would tell him no, that they were in love, he would say, ‘Oh, do you believe in love, Bob?’ And it was sort of like an act, but it was also real. Andy said he didn’t want to have emotions. ‘Bob, if I show feelings I would have a nervous breakdown,’ he told me. And he meant it. It was probably true.”

Colacello admires Warhol, however, for his prescience. “He was into branding before it really existed. The way he dressed, the silly stuff he would say in interviews, it all fitted the brand. The idea that in future everyone would have their 15 minutes of fame. Or that all publicity is good publicity. We ended up with a president who thinks that way. Trump is a really Warholian character. So are the Kardashians. And Andy would say, ‘I want to be a machine’. He would have loved AI. He was into every new technology right from the start.”

“I never stopped believing that Andy was a genius,” Colacello says. But his work with him came to a “complicated end” at the start of the Eighties. Colacello had, until then, been prepared to play second fiddle to the man they all called “the boss”. When an album of Warhol’s photographs had been published, he had not complained that a large proportion of them had actually been taken by him. “That’s how it was when you worked in the Factory. Everything that was yours became Andy’s.” But Warhol grew jealous when one of his entourage became too successful. “Who do you think you are, you are flying around with these rich people on their private planes, it’s going to your head.” It certainly didn’t help when Colacello befriended Nancy Reagan. “She and Andy were like oil and water.” And when Warhol’s manipulative boyfriend came into the picture, Colacello finally realised that he had to move on.

He was 35 at the time. He thought that Warhol would live to 100. He still remembers the shock of being told that the artist was dead. “I thought it was part of my dream. And then, at that moment, my phone rang and it was [the art dealer] Larry Gagosian asking if there were any Warhols for sale. I thought, ‘Oh my God, the art world is so ruthless’. And then a few minutes later Tina Brown called wanting a 5,000-word piece by Monday morning.”

“If Andy had lived he would have gone on surprising us,” Colacello says. After Warhol’s *Last Supper* silkscreen he suggested — only half in jest — that he should retire from pop art to make spiritual paintings, stunning everybody with his total reversal, of course. But the world that Colacello chronicled in his impromptu pictures has now gone. “The left has put us back in the boxes which the puritans put us in before the Sixties. You are gay or a woman or black or Hispanic, and that’s supposed to be your whole identity. And you are all oppressed by the white male patriarchy. That’s what we threw away in the Seventies. It’s hard to believe that it’s back now in a different form. That mixing up of people that once was so prevalent — I just don’t know where you would find that today,” Colacello mourns — even as he admits that tonight he is going out to the opening of a new club.

***Bob Colacello: It Just Happened, Photographs 1976-1982* is at Thaddaeus Ropac, London (ropac.net) from tomorrow to July 29. Entry is free and no booking is required. Free exhibition tour with Colacello at 5pm on June 2; book at londongallery weekend.art**

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

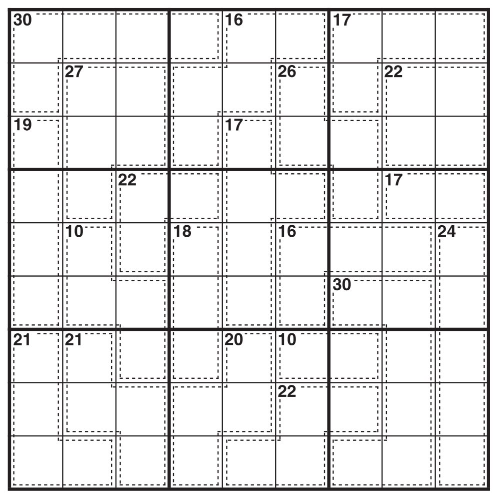
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Sudoku difficult

			7		3			
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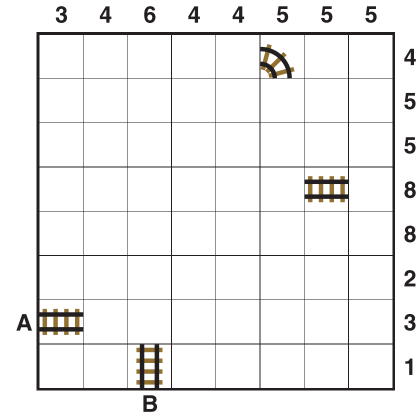
Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

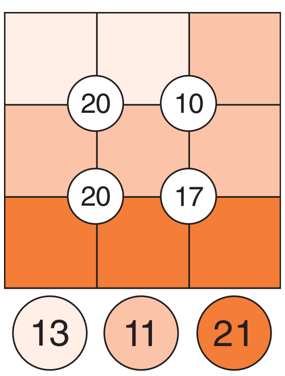


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

□	>	□	>	□		□		□
		^						
4		□		□		□	<	□
□		□		□		□		□
				v				^
□		2		□		□		□
								^
□		□		□	<	□		□

Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

9	22	5	2	16	13	15	■	16	6	26	13	5
6	■	23	■	6	■	18	■	6	■	8	■	15
1	2	22	7	6	■	14	8	10	8	12	15	18
23	■	18	■	14	■	2	■	20	■	22	■	18
4	8	1	23 K	5	4	8	7	■	5	7	8	25
8	■	■	■	15	■	15	■	15 L	■	18	■	■
7	6	14	22	6	7	■	12	22	5	14	1	6 O
■	■	2	■	19	■	19	■	26	■	■	■	11
14	1	22	4	■	14	20	25	18	16	8	26	18
8	■	7	■	6	■	1	■	7	■	24	■	1
12	6	7	8	7	17	8	■	5	3	13	22	24
6	■	18	■	15	■	14	■	18	■	15	■	22
6	24	24	15	20	■	18	21	18	26	14	18	24

A B C D E F G H I J ~~K~~ ~~L~~ M N ~~O~~ P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					O							

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	L								K			

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

1					3
6		3	4		2
		2	6		
5		6	2		4
		1	3		

Solutions in Monday's Times2

Yesterday's solutions

SAMURAI

6	2	8	7	1	9	5	4	3				7	6	5	1	4	3	2	9	8
3	9	5	8	4	2	7	6	1				2	4	3	8	9	7	6	5	1
1	7	4	6	3	5	2	9	8				1	8	9	5	2	6	4	3	7
4	5	9	3	7	1	8	2	6				3	5	4	7	8	2	9	1	6
2	8	3	5	6	4	9	1	7				8	2	7	9	6	1	3	4	5
7	1	6	2	9	8	3	5	4				9	1	6	3	5	4	8	7	2
9	4	7	1	5	3	6	8	2	5	7	9	4	3	1	2	7	8	5	6	9
5	6	2	4	8	7	1	3	9	4	6	2	5	7	8	6	3	9	1	2	4
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7	5	4	9	6	2	1	8	3				5	6	2	7	4	9	8	3	1
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1	9	8	7	4	3	6	5	2				4	1	8	6	5	3	7	9	2
5	4	2	3	7	8	9	1	6				8	9	5	2	1	7	3	6	4
3	7	1	6	5	9	2	4	8				2	4	1	3	8	6	9	5	7
6	8	9	2	1	4	7	3	5				6	3	7	5	9	4	1	2	8

SUKO

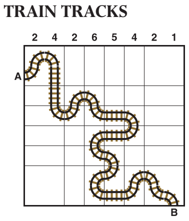
8	6	7
5	1	4
3	2	9

Circles: 20, 18, 11, 16

MINI SUDOKU

3	4	2	5	1	6
1	6	5	2	4	3
2	5	4	6	3	1
6	3	1	4	5	2
4	1	6	3	2	5
5	2	3	1	6	4

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

4		2		1		5	>	3
		^						v
1		4		5		3		2
				v		v		
5	>	3		2		1		4
2		5		3		4	>	1
				^				
3		1		4		2		5

SUDOKU

2	5	9	6	7	4	1	3	8
6	8	3	1	9	5	2	4	7
7	1	4	2	8	3	9	6	5
4	7	5	8	3	9	6	2	1
8	9	1	4	2	6	5	7	3
3	2	6	7	5	1	8	9	4
9	3	2	5	1	7	4	8	6
1	6	7	9	4	8	3	5	2
5	4	8	3	6	2	7	1	9

KILLER

9	3	4	5	1	2	8	6	7
5	2	8	7	6	4	1	9	3
7	6	1	3	9	8	5	4	2
2	8	3	4	7	5	6	1	9
1	5	6	8	2	9	3	7	4
4	7	9	1	3	6	2	5	8
3	9	2	6	4	1	7	8	5
6	4	5	2	8	7	9	3	1
8	1	7	9	5	3	4	2	6

CODEWORD

S	■	O	■	V	■	J	■	S	■	M	■	W
M	A	N	N	E	Q	U	I	N	■	A	S	H
A	■	U	■	N	■	D	■	U	■	X	■	I
R	E	S	I	D	E	D	■	B	L	I	T	Z
M	■	■	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	M	■	Z
Y	E	W	■	T	E	R	R	A	P	I	N	■
■	■	H	■	T	■	■	■	C	■	S	■	■
■	P	I	N	A	F	O	R	E	■	E	G	G
S	■	P	■	■	■	P	■	R	■	■	■	R
P	O	L	K	A	■	E	M	B	R	A	C	E
I	■	A	■	N	■	N	■	I	■	W	■	E
C	O	S	■	O	V	E	R	T	I	R	E	D
Y	■	H	■	N	■	D	■	Y	■	Y	■	Y

This is grim, funny England (in the 18th century)

Carol Midgley TV review



The Gallows Pole
BBC2
★★★★☆

If you skipped *The Gallows Pole* because you saw the listing and thought: "Nah, I'm not in the mood for a grim-sounding 18th-century costume drama" (my instinct was similar) then I urge you to reconsider. Because it is riotously entertaining and upends most of what you expect from a period drama, tosses it in the air and refashions it as something entirely distinctive.

Whatever you were anticipating, you'll probably be wrong. Contrary to appearances, it is also funny, which is always a bonus. I bet many viewers will have been wrongfooted by the opening sequence in which our protagonist, a stabbed, bleeding man called David Hartley (Michael Socha), dragged a sack along Yorkshire moorland and after collapsing was surrounded by tall figures with stag skulls and antlers for heads who appear to represent his conscience. They tell him to redeem his old bad ways by helping others. This does not foretell the punky, unruly journey we are about to embark on.

Shane Meadows (*This Is England*) is known for producing drama and dialogue so naturalistic it feels (and sometimes is) improvised. This true story of the Cragg Vale Coiners, poverty-stricken weavers made obsolete by the industrial revolution who began "clipping" gold coins to forge new counterfeit ones and became so good at it they almost derailed the economy, is another stand-out example. The villagers could have been hanged for this crime.

It is adapted from the award-winning novel by Benjamin Myers. The scene near the end of episode one when David and Grace — the girlfriend he left in the lurch seven years previously when he high-tailed it to Birmingham for a life of crime — bickered outside the funeral wake, asking how many people each other had slept with, was beautifully done. It was like eavesdropping on a real domestic spat that happened outside a west Yorkshire pub last night. "Just prostitutes, really," said David, in answer to her question. Ah, that's all right then.

DEAN ROGERS/BBC



Sophie McShera as Grace and Michael Socha as David

There is no mannered "period" dialogue here; these characters talk and swear and take the mick as if they exist now. Socha is very good, as is Thomas Turgoose as his younger brother William, but probably the best performer is Sophie McShera as Grace, delivering an Olympic level of sarcasm with great realism. The tension and chemistry between her and David is the drama's heart.

Having seen all three episodes I think that it gets better with each one. There is a cracking turn by Ralph Ineson (Finchy from *The Office*) as the Clothier, a heartless capitalist and extremely frequent flyer at the local brothel. "A right dirty bastard," is the appraisal of the brothel's madam.

There is much anachronistic use of music. At one point, the Stranglers' *Peaches* pipes up, something you don't normally associate with clog-wearing weavers in 1767.

If I have one small complaint it is this drama's brevity. I haven't read the novel so don't know how it ends but I'd like to have seen more about what happened when the new wealth started flowing down on to the dirt-poor weavers and exactly how it affected the economy. But if you have three hours to spare, this is a pretty good way to spend it.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am

It's one of those editions of *In Our Time* where you might have to thumb your old school science textbooks. Mitochondria, those parts of the cell that generate most of the chemical energy needed to power its biochemical reactions, is today's subject. Helping Melvyn Bragg to illuminate everything are Mike Murphy, professor of mitochondrial redox biology at Cambridge University; Nick Lane, professor in evolutionary biochemistry at University College London; and Flo Camus, a research fellow in evolutionary biology at University College London.

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. Cultural guests and big thinkers **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. Conversation with political and economic guests **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate with leading figures **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show. With the author Adam Kay **9.30** Vernon Kay. Pop superstar Jess Glynne selects her Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. June 2023 sees the 75th anniversary of the *HMT Empire Windrush* arriving in Britain. Trevor plays seven songs all in connection to this historic moment **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. A mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Music, news and listener requests, presented by Petroc Trelawny. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Tom McKinney presents music and features, including new discoveries, musical surprises and plenty of familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Kate Molleson talks about the composer's introduction to a new student. The daughter of the king of Portugal was only 11 years old but this was a relationship that would dominate Scarlatti's fortunes for the next 35 years. Scarlatti (Sonata in A, K 39; Sonata in A, K 208; Sonata in Am, K 175; *Laetatus sum*; Sonata in Eb, K 434; Sonata in Eb, K 475; and *Missa quatuor vocum, Credo, Sanctus & Benedictus*)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
The pianist Charles Owen performs in the third of four recitals exploring the music of Schubert and others. Presented by Sarah Walker and recorded at St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye, during the Hay Festival. Schubert (Impromptu in G flat, D899/3; and Impromptu in B flat, D935/3); Liszt (*Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este*, S153/4); and Franck (Prelude, Choral et Fugue)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra perform Rachmaninov's Symphony No 3. Plus, Renaissance madrigals from La Compagnia del Madrigale, Charpentier's *Te deum* with Ensemble Les Surprises and Korngold, Shostakovich and Bellini from the BBC performing groups. Korngold (*The Adventures of Robin Hood: Robin Hood and his Merry Men*); Mozart (Symphony No 29 in A, K. 201 — 1st movement); d'India (*Ecco morirò dunque*); Gesualdo (*Io tacerò*); Chaminade (Thème varié for piano, Op 89); Shostakovich (*Festive* Overture Op 96); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor, Op 44); Bellini (*I Capuleti ed i Montecchi* — Overture); Charpentier (*Te deum*); Saint-Saëns (*Morceau de concert*, Op 94, arr for horn and harp); Nenna (*Ecco, o dolce, o gradita*); Tagliavia (*Ancidetemi cruda*); and Revueltas (*Sensemayá*)
5.00 In Tune
Music and arts news
7.00 Classical Mixtape
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
7.30 Live Radio 3 in Concert
Ryan Bancroft and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales perform Grace Williams' Concert Overture, Mozart's 39th Symphony and Strauss's tone poem *Don Quixote*. With Rebecca Jones (viola), and Alice Neary (cello). Presented by Ian Skelly, live from St David's Hall in Cardiff. Grace Williams (Concert Overture); Mozart (Symphony No 39 in E flat, K 543); and Richard Strauss (*Don Quixote*, Op 35)
10.00 Free Thinking
Rana Mitter is joined at the Hay Festival by Kapka Kassabova, Noreen Masud and Patrick Barham for a conversation about writing on landscapes, nature and personal histories
10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs
The Old Fashioned Way by Paul French
11.00 The Night Tracks Mix
Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents
11.30 Unclassified
Elizabeth Alker presents
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Nick Robinson and Mishal Husain
9.00 In Our Time
The history of ideas. ***See Radio Choice***
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History
By Jonathan Kennedy (4/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Anita Rani presents the magazine show
10.25-7.00 (LW) Live Test Match Special: England v Ireland
Commentary on day one of the one-off four-day Test at Lord's
11.00 From Our Own Correspondent
Reports from across the globe (2/9)
11.30 Great Lives
Ellie Gibson picks the British politician and writer Tony Benn (9/9) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
12.30 Sliced Bread
Searching for the scientific evidence behind a product's bold claims (4/10)
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth
The insidious way in which convenience has warped humankind's existence (4/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Undercover Mumbai
Crime drama by Ayeesha Menon (3/3) (r)
3.00 Ramblings
Clare Balding meets two brothers on the Dorset coast (3/7)
3.27 Radio 4 Appeal
On behalf of the NSPCC (r)
3.30 Open Book
The latest publications (r)
4.00 Princess
The first documented female author, the Mesopatamian princess Enheduanna (9/10)
4.30 BBC Inside Science
The latest scientific research
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Unite
Convinced of his imminent demise, Tony tries to get an in-person GP appointment. Comedy with Claire Skinner and Mark Steel (1/6)
7.00 The Archers
Oliver finds himself in trouble
7.15 Front Row
8.00 Law in Action
Legal developments (2/4) (r)
8.30 The Patch
Polly Weston presents from Leverhulme Park, Bolton (4/4) (r)
9.00 BBC Inside Science
The latest scientific research (r)
9.30 In Our Time (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors
By Tan Twan Eng (4/10)
11.00 Rylan: How to Be a Man
Rylan chats to Phil Wang (3/10)
11.30 The Spark
Helen Lewis meets Rochelle Burgess to discuss social prescribing (4/4) (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (4/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am The Burkiss Way **8.30** Kalangadog Junction **9.00** Jest a Minute **9.30** Clare in the Community **10.00** Lennon: A Week in the Life **10.45** A Point of View **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** On the Rocks **1.00** The Burkiss Way **1.30** Kalangadog Junction **2.00** Jest a Minute **2.30** Clare in the Community **3.00** Lennon: A Week in the Life **3.45** A Point of View **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** On the Rocks **6.00** The Burkiss Way **6.30** Kalangadog Junction **7.00** Jest a Minute **7.30** Clare in the Community **8.00** Tears of a Clown: Kissinger's Century. In his 100th year Henry Kissinger discusses his life and career **9.00** Frankly Speaking. An interview with Brian Epstein **9.30** Across the Narrow Water. Thriller, by Tom Kelly (1/2) **10.00** Comedy Club: It's a Fair Cop. Alfie Moore explores the police's use of informants. Last in the series **10.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Hang-Ups. Tom's dad offers some unwanted assistance **11.00** Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop. Today's topic is diversity **11.15** Political Animals. George W Bush's Scottish terrier Barney reveals how his heart was broken **11.30** Rigor Mortis

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **8.00** 5 Live Sport. Coverage from day five of the French Open **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Emily Pilbeam **7.30** Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Loud and Proud with Lava La Rue & Kindness **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** New Music Fix with Steve Lamacq **1.00am** New Music Fix with Mary Anne Hobbs **2.00** New Music Fix with Tom Ravenscroft **3.00** New Album Fix **4.00** New Music Fix Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Joe Clay

Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm

Top pick The original and still the best genealogy programme returns for its 20th series and the first subject is musical royalty in the form of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Born in London in 1948, Lloyd Webber grew up in a musical family — his mother was an "extraordinary piano teacher", his father an "academic musician" and his younger brother, Julian, became one of the world's best cellists. "I suppose the one thing I would like to discover is where my love of musical theatre comes from," says Lloyd Webber before he embarks on his search. He begins by tracing his maternal line, going back through his granny Molly to his four-times great-grandparents Thomas and Jane Maitland. Their son — Lloyd Webber's four-times great-uncle Peregrine Maitland — had a distinguished military career and served in the Battle of Waterloo, being of such status that he features in a portrait with the Duke of Wellington. But why did his 12-times great-grandmother, the Duchess of Suffolk no less, marry down the class system? He has more luck with his father's side of the family, where he finds out that his plumber grandfather was also a tenor who sang at the 1937 coronation of George VI. As he goes back in time, the king of the West End finds a true East End "working-class hero" in his bloodline. Future episodes in the nine-part series feature the actresses Claire Foy and Lesley Manville from *The Crown*.

Changing Ends
ITVX

Alan Carr is the narrator of this semi-autobiographical sitcom telling the story of his life growing up in Northamptonshire in the 1980s. By the mid-Eighties, he says, "puberty came along, punched me in the face and left me with the eyesight of a mole and the voice of an elderly lady". Oliver Savell plays the young Carr, "a social pariah" whose father, Graham, is the manager of the fourth division football club Northampton Town. Alan is more into Miss Marple than *Match of the Day*, but when he is disowned by his footy-mad mate Charlie, he asks his dad for a few pointers.

BBC1

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain. The home repair policies that have failed to live up to expectations **10.45** Fraud Squad. An £8million fake ticket fraud against a vital transport network **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Lancashire and Somerset (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Roo Irvine hosts the show from Nottinghamshire (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Scarlett is accused of theft (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. A sign-writer repurposes some rusty saws **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jonnie Irwin help a couple who have £650,000 budget to find a home in Devon, wanting to be close to the coast. He also visits Beer, a fishing village long associated with smugglers (r) (AD) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Flo Headlam address the needs of a sad and unloved garden in Groby, Leicestershire **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. DIY legend Tommy Walsh, expert cleaner Maxine Dwyer and carpenter Asher Edwards head to north London to help a grandmother make over her messy lounge **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

7.00 **The One Show** Live magazine show with Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 **EastEnders** Linda is shocked when Elaine's championship boxer fiancé and his daughters arrive from Marbella with plans to help run The Vic (AD)

8.00 **MasterChef** The search for the show's 19th champion reaches its climax, as the remaining amateur cooks produce the three courses they hope will secure them the title. Last in the series (AD)

9.00 **Who Do You Think You Are?** Andrew Lloyd Webber is astonished to uncover stories from his family's history that uncannily parallel his own life, including an ancestor with a famous cello-playing brother. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.40 **Question Time** Fiona Bruce presents the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in Leicester to answer questions from an invited audience on subjects that have made the headlines over the past week

11.40 **King of Thieves (15, 2018)** Retired criminals attempt to pull off a major burglary in London's jewellery district. Crime drama based on the Hatton Garden heist starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon, Francesca Annis, Jim Broadbent and Ray Winstone

Late

1.25am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2

Early

6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: A Special School (r) (SL) **8.30** Caught Red Handed (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef travels to the flatlands of Lincolnshire (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin share a special encounter with dolphins (r) (AD) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day. A look at the seafood trade with Ed Balls visiting the cargo hub at Heathrow, Cherry Healey in the Highlands, and Ade Adepitan travelling to Iceland to find out about the Cod Wars (r) (AD) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. The Arderns adjust to 1970s life, a time when supermarkets had become Britain's shopping destination of choice and corner shops were beginning to feel the pinch (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Thomas Plant and David Fletcher are at Norwich Cathedral to select items to take to auction (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Hornsea to Spurn Point (AD)

7.00 **Cricket: Today at the Test** England v Ireland. Action from day one of the one-off Test from Lord's

8.00 **Springwatch** Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan indulge viewers with the highlights ahead of the weekend, and Iolo Williams sets sail into Poole Harbour — keen to see a white-tailed eagle or an osprey during the programme (4/12)

9.00 **Strike: Inside the Unions** Charting the start of the historic wave of 2022 strikes, which saw more days lost to strike action since the Thatcher era. *See Viewing Guide* (2/2) (AD)

10.00 **Inside No 9** Alan arrives to teach at a small school in rural Wales, but finds himself overshadowed (2/6) (r) (AD)

10.30 **Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events with Kirsty Wark

11.15 **Forensics: The Real CSI** West Midlands Police work with fire investigators to identify the cause of a major fire at a factory in Birmingham, hoping to find vital evidence before it is destroyed (3/4) (r) (AD)

Late

12.15am Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure Rosamund Kissi-Debrah shares the story of her daughter's death from pollution, and tips on choosing the right place to get a hair transplant (r) (SL) **1.00** Strike: Inside the Unions (1/2) (r) (AD, SL) **2.00** Frontline Fightback (r) (SL) **2.45-3.15** Iolo's Borderlands (r) (SL)

ITV1

Early

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. The women put the world to rights and invite a guest to chat about what they are up to **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson is in Blackburn, where Matt Taylor happens upon an unlikely duet, Alys Dobbie sizes up a vintage dress, and Tim Hogarth coins it in (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Five university friends answer Top 10 list questions and attempt to top the Tenable tower to win a big cash prize. Quiz show hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. contestants from Matlock, Southampton, Cambridge and Flintshire work as a team to take down one of the country's finest quiz brains. Bradley Walsh hosts **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

7.00 **Emmerdale** Amy questions Chloe over her intentions with Mackenzie (AD)

7.30 **Coronation Street** Daisy falters on her way to the witness box (AD)

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance. Judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon oversee the returning acts

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**

10.30 **Regional News**

10.45 **Our House** Fi is left reeling by Bram's apparent involvement in the house sale. Meanwhile, in the past, Bram frantically covers up his part in the accident whilst trying to mend his relationship with Fi (2/4) (r) (AD)

11.40 **All Elite Wrestling: Rampage** Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling — the roster features world-class talent

Late

12.35am Teleshopping 3.00 Made in Britain. Behind the scenes at the factory supplying Pimm's to the world, and the team of craftsmen and woman who make sure the Household Cavalry look their best when on parade (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Family Fortunes. Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

Early

6.05am Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. The lads head to Birmingham (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. The competition begins in Plymouth (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe helps a chef and a yoga teacher to find their perfect property near Estepona on Spain's Costa del Sol, on a budget of £200,000 (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. Two carpenters have just six months to renovate and sell a house bought at auction that's been condemned, not once but twice (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. James tackles his master bedroom as he renovates his home into a holiday rental (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Brazilian football legend Ronaldo visits the town to advise Homer on refereeing Little League matches, while Marge gets hooked on a computer game (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Yazz has a big decision to make about her future, Grace and Zara decide to confront Cindy about her recent behaviour, and Ethan and Sienna put their plan into motion (r) (AD)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **24 Hours in A&E** A 31-year-old man is rushed in after his fourth epileptic seizure of the day, and he experiences another at the hospital. Meanwhile, a 12-year-old girl requires extensive surgery after breaking her leg while scoring a try in a rugby match (r) (AD)

9.00 **Taskmaster** The contenders contemplate using a hose, create something soothing for two very specific professions and have an intense game of face-changing chess with Alex. Last in the series (AD)

10.00 **Open House: The Great Sex Experiment** Married couple Tom and Kirsty are looking to try new things. With Kirsty's support, Tom wants to sexually experiment with another man for the first time (3/8) (AD)

11.05 **Untold: The Secret World of Boy Racers** The UK's new boy racers

11.40 **Naked Attraction's Best Naughty Bits** A look back at some of the biggest and best characters (r) (AD)

Late

12.35am Gender Wars (r) (AD, SL) **1.25** 60 Days on the Estates (r) (AD, SL) **2.20** Kids. Following young people through a crucial year in care (r) (AD, SL) **3.10** Grand Designs: The Streets (r) (AD, SL) **4.00** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r) **5.10-6.05** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 5

Early

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Remi's apology does not go down well with Cash. Marilyn's Stunning Organics project has a hiccup — the company has sent her way more boxes of product than she ordered (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Cut, Colour, Murder (PG, TVM)** When a beauty pageant creator is found dead, a hairdresser works with a detective to clear the names of those she loves. Thriller starring Julie Gonzalo **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. A Chinese medicine tablet might be just what the doctor ordered for one rival, while a silk woven stevengraph threatens to turn the tables **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Team Wiki Woo competes (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Think Tank will be looking for a winning strategy to defeat the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

7.00 **The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres** The poet explores places surrounding the region, along the way meeting people who call this corner of England home, beginning by heading to Stonehenge in Wiltshire (1/6) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Bargain Loving Brits by the Sea** Cameras follow puppet enthusiast and Blackpool bed and breakfast owner Martin Scott Price, whose traditional British seaside *Punch and Judy* show is a hit with the kids (2/6)

9.00 **Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka** On the last leg of his journey around the island of Sri Lanka, the presenter moves north into Tamil country, but first he has a close encounter with a cobra. *See Viewing Guide* (3/3)

10.00 **Killer at the Crime Scene** In December 2019, police are called to Brighton seafront after a hit-and-run. Drones record the layout of the scene, and a 3D laser scan is made of the area. Last in the series (r)

11.05 **Police: Suspect No 1** Detectives investigate after a violent attack on a group of friends on a night out leaves one of them critically injured and fighting for his life in hospital (4/6) (r)

Late

12.05am Police Interceptors Following a manhunt for a dangerous suspect (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) (AD) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (AD, SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Thomas (r) (SL)



How Russia's Wagner group took over the Central

Russia's Wagner group – already dominant in the conflict in Ukraine – has become the de facto boss in the diamond-rich Central African Republic, where they influence politics, culture and the economy. But how did this happen?

The Days
Netflix

This eight-part thriller focuses on the events before and after a tsunami swallowed up the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on March 11, 2011. Based on careful research, the action follows seven intense days from three perspectives — government officials, employees of the Tokyo Electric Power Company and the people on site at Fukushima risking their lives to mitigate damage. With its cooling function lost, the power plant fell into a dangerous state. What happened next left the country wondering if it was a natural disaster or a man-made one.

Strike: Inside the Unions
BBC2, 9pm

In the second episode, cameras follow Pat Cullen, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, through the bruising negotiation process as the government makes a new pay offer. As the nurses prepare to strike again, the government mounts a successful legal challenge to their action, provoking an angry reaction from Cullen and many of her fellow nurses. The episode also covers the first strike by Amazon workers and the Abellio bus drivers in London in their dispute over better pay and conditions. Will a hard-won deal be enough to satisfy the workers?

Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka
Channel 5, 9pm

Alexander Armstrong is heading off the tourist trail to find out how ancient history and recent conflicts shape the lives of Sri Lankans. He learns about the legacy of the civil war in the north of the country that was fought between the Tamil Tigers and the Sinhalese-dominated government between 1983 and 2009. He meets the man in charge of the country's largest landmine clearing operation and also goes to a bull race in Jaffna, attends a festival celebrating Lord Shiva and gets to grips with the martial art of angampora.

Film Bros
Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 8pm

This romantic comedy from Judd Apatow is his first to feature an almost entirely LGBT cast and an all-gay storyline, and to be co-written by a gay man (Billy Eichner, also the star). Eichner plays Bobby, an LGBT activist. (15, 2022)

Sky Max

6.00am Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash. Joe and Cisco head to Starling City (r)
6.00 Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD)
7.00 Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD)
8.00 Football's Funniest Moments. Comical incidents from the football world (r) (AD)
8.30 Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special. Celebrity fans look back on more than 20 years of Spider-Man movies (r)
9.00 Last King of the Cross. The war between John and Fat George escalates
10.15 Fantasy Island. Three friends come to the island to celebrate their 50th birthdays (r)
11.15 The Force: Manchester. Following the work of Greater Manchester Police (r)
12.15am NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **1.10** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** Big Love (r) **10.05** True Blood (r)
12.15pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** Big Love (r) **5.45** True Blood. Russell invades the fairy burlesque club. Bill slips further into religious fanaticism (r)
6.50 True Blood. Eric leads a desperate mission to stop Bill and the Authority (r)
7.55 Game of Thrones. Jon and his men attack the mutineers at Craster's Keep (r) (AD)
9.00 Billions. Axe deals with a family disturbance involving Lara (10/12) (r) (AD)
10.05 Billions. Chuck and his father find that they have much riding on the rise or fall of Ice Juice's new IPO (11/12) (r) (AD)
11.10 Gangs of London. Old scores are settled and new alliances are forged. Meanwhile, Elliot makes a choice that defines his future (r) (AD)
12.20am In Treatment. Paul is apprehensive (r) **12.50** The Night Of (r) (AD) **2.00** Big Love (r) **3.05** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.05** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Movies (r) **7.00** Discovering: Judi Dench (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **10.00** Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow (r) (AD) **11.00** The Essex Murders (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: Honeyland (12, 2019) 1.50pm FILM: Hitsville — The Making of Motown (12, 2019)** The history and origins of Motown **4.00** The Directors (r)
5.00 Discovering: Judi Dench (r)
6.00 The Seventies (r) (AD)
7.00 Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow. The life of the former socialite (2/3) (r) (AD)
8.00 The Essex Murders (r) (AD)
9.00 FILM: Wig (15, 2019) The history and influence of the Wigstock drag festival
10.50 The Man Who Played with Fire (1/4) (r)
11.50 FILM: Inmate 1 — The Rise of Danny Trejo (15, 2019) Film shining a spotlight on the incredible transformation of the actor's life
2.00am FILM: 537 Votes (15, 2020) The custody battle over Elian Gonzalez **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Judi Dench (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am André Rieu: Welcome to My World **7.00** André Rieu: Roses from the South **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: William Holden (AD) **12.00** Raphael: Revealed **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs (AD) **3.00** The Directors **4.00** Discovering: Barbara Stanwyck (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.00 Discovering: Natalie Wood (AD)
8.00 Landscape Artist of the Year: Celebrity Special. Famous faces head to the town of Whitstable to showcase their artistic flair
9.00 The Directors. Spike Lee (AD)
10.00 Bafta: Life in Pictures
11.00 The Sixties (AD)
12.00 Peter Frampton: FCA! 35 Tour **2.00am** Discovering: David Bowie (AD) **3.00** I Hate Jane Austen By Giles Coren (AD) **4.00** Auction **4.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland. Coverage of day one of the one-off Test from Lord's, London, as England start their build-up towards the Ashes. The two sides have faced each other once before in a Test match back in 2019, when England won by 143 runs, as they bowled Ireland out for just 38 in their second innings, and they will be expecting another victory this time around
6.45pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning. Coverage of the North Group match, which is being held at Headingley
10.30 Live PGA Tour Golf: The Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. Further live coverage of day one comes from Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio
11.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment
2.00am Live NBA Basketball. Coverage of game one of the NBA Finals **5.00** Sky Sports News

T AUDIO

African Republic

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. The host covers all the stories you need to know to start your day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for your calls **4.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan. The hosts discuss current affairs and the stories that matter with big-name guests, exclusive interviews, and your thoughts on what's got the nation talking
7.00 Jeremy Kyle. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events
9.00 The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored
12.00 Andre Walker. Today's top stories
1.00am Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm The Pennine Way. Polar adventurer Paul Rose makes a find at an archaeological dig in Northumberland, joins the Grenadier Guards on exercise and discovers the quality of the Pennines' dark skies. Last in the series
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. Fred explores the work of the builders and engineers responsible for the waterways of Britain (5/6)
8.00 A House Through Time. David Olusoga explores the house's history from the 1880s to the First World War, a period that saw the property sliding down the social scale and turning to a multiple occupancy home (3/4)
9.00 FILM: Casablanca (U, 1942) The owner of a Moroccan nightclub is reunited with an old flame who needs his help to escape the country. Romantic drama starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains (b/w)
10.40 Ingrid Bergman in Her Own Words — Imagine. A profile of Oscar-winning actress Ingrid Bergman, from her days as a Swedish schoolgirl to her position as Hollywood icon
12.20am Expedition Volcano **1.20** The Pennine Way **1.50** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain **2.20-3.20** A House Through Time (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am Honey West (b/w) **6.30 FILM: The Stable Door (PG, 1966)** (b/w) **7.10 FILM: Great Day in the Morning (U, 1956) 9.00** Black Saddle (b/w) **9.30 FILM: Another Man's Poison (PG, 1951)** Thriller starring Bette Davis (b/w) **11.15 FILM: Convict Stage (PG, 1965)** Western starring Harry Lauter
12.45pm FILM: The End of the Line (PG, 1957) Crime drama starring Alan Baxter (b/w)
2.05 FILM: Towed in a Hole (U, 1932) Comedy starring Laurel and Hardy (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: Alive and Kicking (U, 1958)** Comedy starring Sybil Thorndike (b/w) **5.00 FILM: McLintock! (U, 1963)** Comedy Western starring John Wayne
7.40 Look at Life. A look at silver
8.00 The Saint. Roger Moore stars (b/w)
9.00 Justice. Harriet represents a ship owner
10.00 FILM: The Groundstar Conspiracy (PG, 1972) Thriller starring George Peppard
11.55 FILM: Cry of the City (PG, 1948) Crime drama starring Victor Mature (b/w)
1.45am FILM: Fraulein (PG, 1958) Romantic drama **3.30 FILM: Too Young to Love (12, 1960)** Courtroom drama (b/w) **5.10** Crazy Days

Film4

11.00am The Red Pony (U, 1949) Drama starring Robert Mitchum **12.50pm Shenandoah (PG, 1965)** American Civil War Western starring James Stewart **3.00 Captain Scarlett (U, 1953)** Swashbuckling adventure starring Richard Greene **4.35 An Affair to Remember (U, 1957)** Romantic drama with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr (AD)
6.50 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993) A singer who once posed as a nun joins the order again to help save a Catholic school by making a success of its choir. Comedy sequel with Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith (AD)
9.00 Commando (18, 1985) A retired military officer battles a treacherous comrade and a former dictator, who have kidnapped his daughter. Action adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rae Dawn Chong (AD)
10.50 The Worst Person in the World (15, 2021) The chronicles of four years in the life of a woman who navigates the troubled waters of her love life and career path. Comedy romance with Renate Reinsve and Anders Danielsen Lie
1.25am-3.45 Thelma (15, 2017) Supernatural thriller starring Eili Harboe

More4

8.55am Food Unwrapped (AD) **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Escape to the Château. Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree prepare for their wedding (AD)
6.55 The Dog House. Curious four-month-old terrier siblings arrive at the centre (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets a pair who plan to build a Roman-inspired home on the protected land surrounding one of Britain's most historic abbeys in Hertfordshire (5/10) (AD)
9.00 Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer. Phil is joined by the Paralympic sprinter Libby Clegg and her guide dogs Hatti and Bramble for a walk in the Yorkshire Dales (AD)
10.00 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations. George is in West Yorkshire to check out a former police station (3/6) (AD)
11.05 24 Hours in A&E. Exploring the hopes and expectations of three different men (5/8) (AD)
12.05am Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Dress to Impress (AD, SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Love Bites (AD) **11.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **12.00** Britain's Got Talent **2.00pm** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
7.00 Superstore (AD)
7.30 Superstore (AD)
8.00 Bob's Burgers (AD)
8.30 Bob's Burgers (AD)
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: European Road Trip. Gordon Ramsay takes Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix across Scotland (AD)
10.00 Family Guy (AD)
10.30 Family Guy (AD)
11.00 Family Guy (AD)
11.30 American Dad! (AD)
11.55 American Dad! (AD)
12.25am Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. The heaviest mantle of bees
2.45 Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD)
1.40pm Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War (AD)
5.55 Heartbeat. As Christmas comes, the locals contend with their very own Scrooge (AD)
6.55 Heartbeat. An elderly patient's death arouses Maggie's suspicions (AD)
8.00 Vera. The ugly truth about a murder victim's past begins to emerge when the body of a drug dealer washes up on a beach, while Vera copes with revelations of her own (3/4) (AD)
10.00 Scott & Bailey. Rachel helps DCI Murray on a rape and murder case and, back at home, she makes a shocking discovery about what her brother Dom gets up to in her flat (3/8) (AD)
11.00 Scott & Bailey. The duo investigate the murder of an eight-year-old boy. Meanwhile, Rachel receives a proposal from Sean, and Janet tells Andy she is having second thoughts about their brief liaison (4/8) (AD)
12.05am Wild at Heart. Double bill (AD)
2.15 Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.05** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.10** The Saint **9.15** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.25** Magnum, PI **11.30** The Saint **12.35pm** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.45** Giant Lobster Hunters (AD)
2.45 Magnum, PI (AD) **3.40** The Professionals (AD) **4.45** Minder. An old friend returns to England (AD) **5.55** Giant Lobster Hunters (AD)
6.55 BattleBots. Minotaur and Subzero battle
8.00 The Great British Treasure Hunt. The grand finale takes place at Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, which is one of Britain's greatest country houses
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Preview Programme. A look ahead to this year's event, featuring interviews with the leading figures in the sport
10.00 FILM: Die Hard (15, 1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have taken over a Los Angeles skyscraper where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman (AD)
12.45am Isle of Man TT: Preview Programme
1.45 The Professionals (AD, SL) **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Live Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.05** Birds of a Feather **7.35** Pie in the Sky **8.30** Lovejoy **9.40** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill
12.40pm Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December. Alec buys a murder mystery game
6.00 Just Good Friends
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Glenda receives a chaise longue as an anniversary present
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators. Frank and Lu must clear their names when they are framed for various crimes by some mysterious doppelgangers (AD)
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators. Frank and Lu investigate a missing person case at a casino (AD)
10.00 New Tricks. The team investigates the murder of a junior doctor (2/10) (AD)
11.20 Silent Witness. Sam is reunited with an old flame while investigating the murders of a businessman and his family
1.55am Rebellion. The rebels must surrender
3.05 Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Rise of the Nazis **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** Fred Dibnah's World of Steam, Steel and Stone **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys. With Michael Portillo
6.00 Inside the Factory. A mattress factory
7.00 Bangers and Cash. A MG Midget, an Austin-Healey "frogeye" Sprite and an RS2000 come up for auction (9/10)
8.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. A super-rare Renault Clio Williams 2 in F1 blue with contrasting gold alloys has turned Dave Mathewson an interesting shade of green (AD)
9.00 Classic Car Garage. Colin brings a rare Ford Zephyr into the 21st Century (AD)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (8/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering (5/12) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys
1.00am Rise of the Nazis **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: **10.40pm** The View. News, comment and analysis from Stormont and Westminster **11.20** Question Time. Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Leicester **12.25am** FILM: King of Thieves (2018) Retired criminals try to pull off a major burglary in London's jewellery district. Fact-based crime drama starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon and Francesca Annis **2.05-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: **11.15am** Bargain Hunt. Roo Irvine hosts the show from Nottinghamshire (r) **12.00-1.00pm** First Minister's Questions. Coverage of questions to First Minister Humza Yousaf **7.00-7.30** River City. Jessie returns to Shieldinch hoping to make amends (r)

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: **10.00pm-10.30** The Peninsula Nurses. Nurse Lisa enjoys a trip to a farm shop in Kircubbin (2/2) (r)

STV
As ITV1 except: **11.40pm** Robson and Jim's Fly-Fishing Adventure. Robson and Jim travel from source to sea on Robson's home river of the Tyne (r) **12.30am-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm** UTV Life. Join Pamela Ballantine for chat, music and a few surprises **11.15-11.40** Rare Breed — A Farming Year. As the harvest starts, one family is hoping for a good sale (r)

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Iain Robertson Rambles — The Hebridean Way. Iain is joined by *River City* co-star Kari Corbett (r) **7.30** Scotland's Home of the Year. The judges visit three properties in the central region (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden. Advice on bedding plants, hanging baskets and lawn care **8.30** Landward. Dougie Vipond heads to the East Neuk of Fife to visit the Balcaskie Estate **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch. The skippers face tough decisions as Storm Arwen hits. Last in the series (r) **11.00** Sportscene: Premiership Play-off Final Highlights. Action from the first leg **11.30-12.00** Rewind 1980s. A journey through some of the most influential and well-remembered music, television, historic events and momentous news of the 1980s (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Piseag & Cuilean/ Kit & Pup (r) **5.05** Sionnach agus Maigheach (Fox & Hare) (r) **5.20** Shane an Chef (r) **5.30** Oscar & Ealasaid (r) **5.45** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud (r) **6.10** Caractaran (r) **6.20** A-null 's a-nall (r) **6.35** Stri (r) **6.40** Triuir aig Tri (r) **7.00** Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Mìann na Maighdinn-mara/ Mermaid Tales (r) **9.00** Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (Sheepdog Trials) (r) **10.00** Na Millenni-Gaels (r) **10.30** Ameireaga agus an t-Olocost **11.20** Binneas — Na Trads (r) **11.30** Mach à Seo! (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Sali Mali (r) **6.05** Jamborî (r) **6.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.30** Gwdihw (r) **6.45** Digbi Draig (r) **7.00** Caru Canu (r) **7.05** Sam Tân **7.15** Sbarc (r) **7.30** Octonots (r) **7.45** Awyr Iach (r) **8.00** Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **8.10** Pablo (r) **8.25** Asra (r) **8.40** Abadas (r) **8.50** Shwshaswyn (r) **8.55** Loti Borloti (r) **9.10** Ynys Broc Môr Lili (r) **9.20** Dwylo'r Enfys (r) **9.35** Sion y Chef (r) **9.45** Deian a Loli (r) **10.00** Caru Canu (r) **10.05** Octonots (r) **10.15** Awyr Iach (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis Morris present live coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **1.55** News; Weather **2.00** Live Urdd 2023: Defod y Cadeirio **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **6.00** Copsan (AD) **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Adre (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **9.25** News; Weather **9.30** Pawb a'i Farn **10.30** Iaith ar Daith (r) (AD) **11.30-1.00am** Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 (r)

MindGames

Tetonor Tricky No 366

54	16	64	24
15	55	40	81
95	30	56	13
22	72	18	57

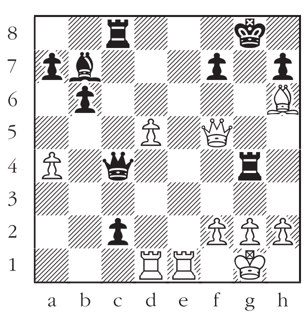
	3		5	5			8	8	8	9			19		

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Tuesday

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

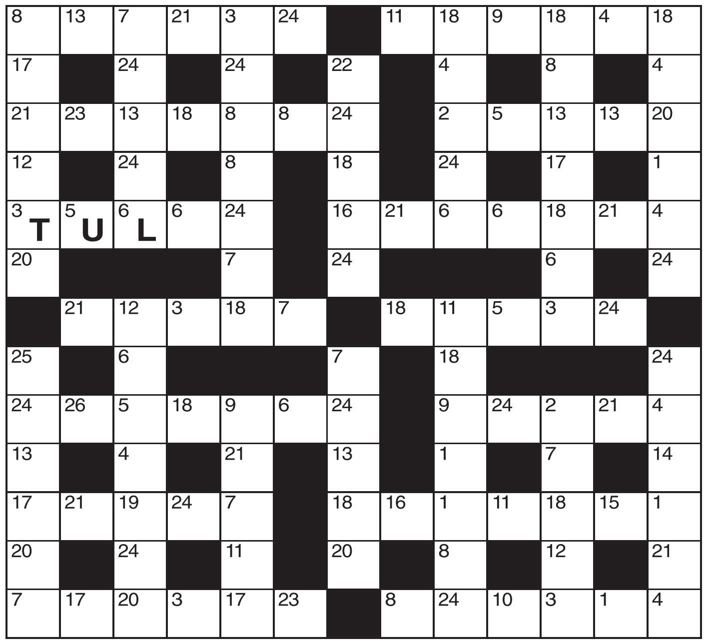
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is a variation from Hoffman-Ressia, Montevideo 2023.

Black's back rank is weak and the loss of the g-pawn means his king is badly exposed. He therefore has to be constantly aware of moves such as Qg5+, which could force a quick mate. The passed pawn on c2 is some compensation but White can brush this aside with a fine finish. Can you see how?

Codeword No 4916



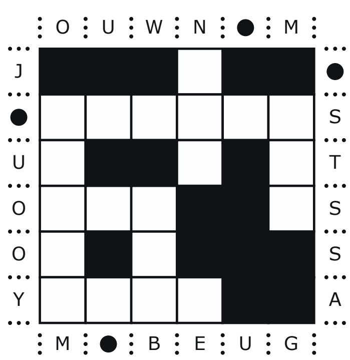
A B C D E F G H I J K ~~L~~ M N O P Q R S ~~T~~ ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

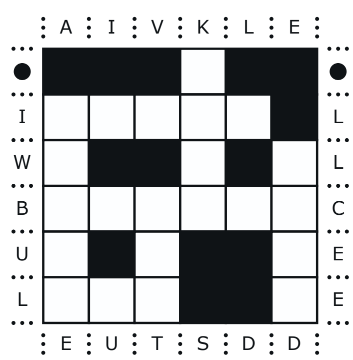
1	2	3 T	4	5 U	6 L	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

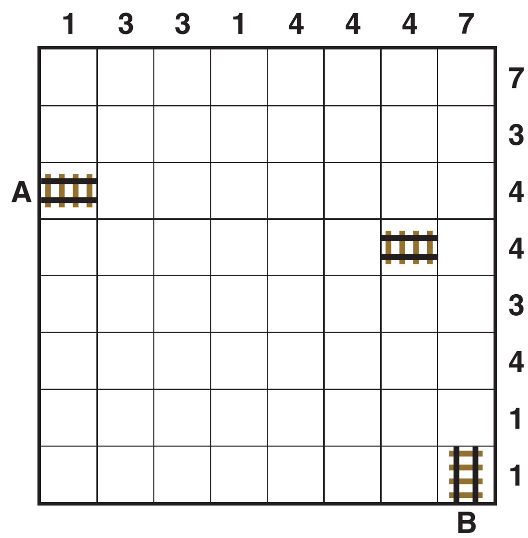
Lexica No 6897 No 6898





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1951



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Leak of alcohol bishop's left (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Former president's good and bombastic speech (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Actor allowed in play (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 This person's phone creating static (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Seriously close to bird's home on island (2,7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	E	E	E	E
E	G	H	I	I	I	L	L
M	M	M	N	N	N	O	O
O	R	R	S	T	T	T	Z

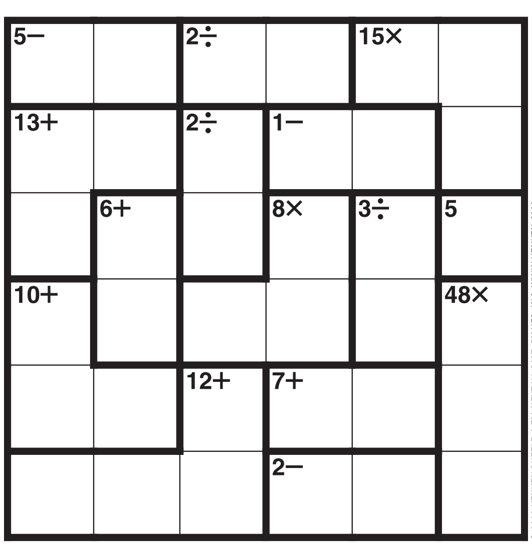
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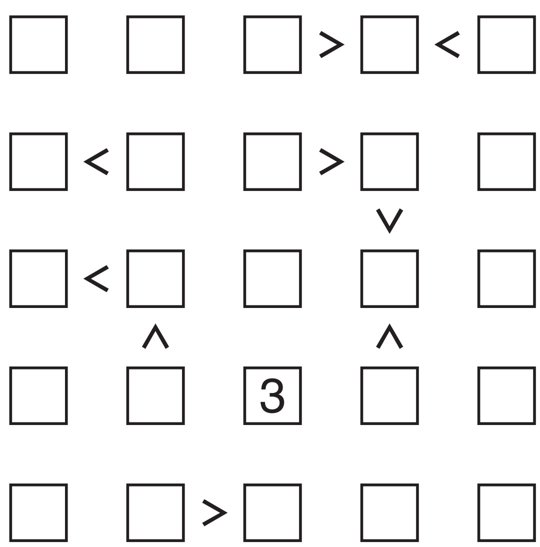
KenKen Difficult No 5908



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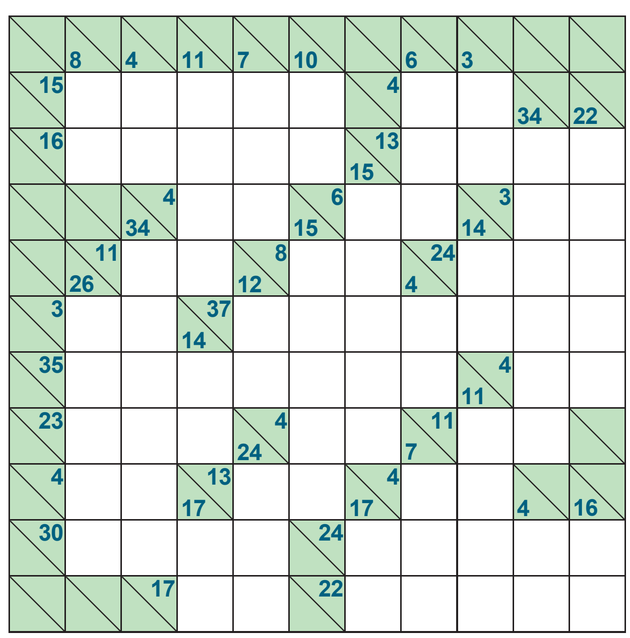
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4489



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3448

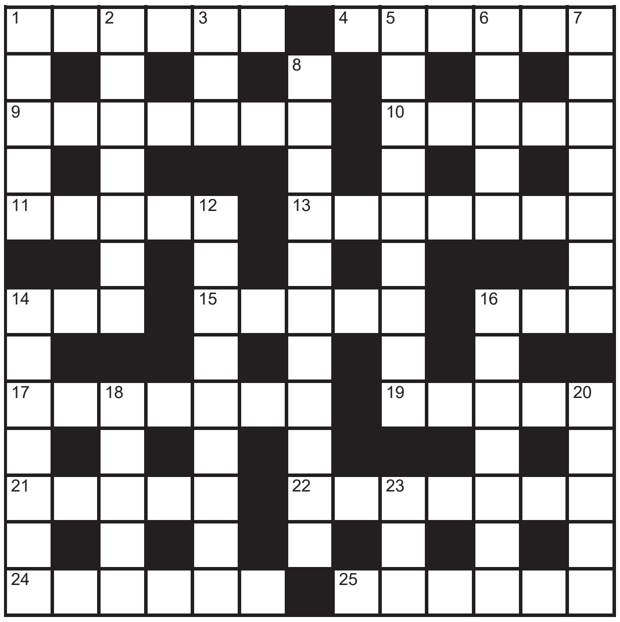


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9232



Across
1 Criticise, verbally assail (6)
4 Childcare facility (6)
9 Disorderly mixture (7)
10 Lightly fry (5)
11 Speedy (5)
13 Surprise source of riches (7)
14 Deed (3)
15 Intermediary (5)
16 Sea floor (3)
17 Traditional shopkeeper (7)
19 Wide river mouth (5)
21 Bone of the leg (5)
22 Maria Callas, eg (7)
24 Continue after a break (6)
25 Sculpted figure (6)

Down
1 Deduce (5)
2 Low wall along an edge (7)
3 State of western India (3)
5 Echoed deeply (9)
6 Dairy vessel (5)
7 Green gemstone (7)
8 Betray (6-5)
12 Muscle of respiration (9)
14 Judge, umpire (7)
16 Stabilising weight (7)
18 Pipes (5)
20 Domicile, residence (5)
23 Household animal (3)

Solution to Crossword 9231

A	R	M	P	I	T				A	R	M	Y
	A		L		R		L		N		O	
A	I	D	A		A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E
	N		I		C		N		U		O	
A	B	E	T	T	I	N	G		A	W	R	Y
	O				N		U		L			
A	W	N	I	N	G		A	S	S	I	S	T
			G		P		F				Y	
A	E	O	N		A	R	R	O	G	A	N	T
	M		O		P		A		N		O	
A	B	E	R	D	E	E	N		A	U	N	T
	E		E		R		C		R		Y	
A	R	I	D				A	P	L	O	M	B

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Team Bulstrode, captained by my good friend and sometime teammate Patrick Lawrence, in partnership with his son Oliver, won the Punchbowl at the 2023 Schapiro Spring Foursomes in Bristol. Although the Punchbowl is the consolation event for twice-defeated teams, it has become an increasingly prestigious event in itself.

This 4♥ from the Punchbowl was outstandingly well played by Ulf Nilsson of Sweden, one of the Bulstrode quintet. West led a second-from-rubbish six of diamonds, East correctly refraining from playing the king. Declarer beat her nine with the queen and led a heart to the ace, West discarding a club.

The 4-0 heart split was a blow for declarer and he appeared to have no chance. He tried a spade to the jack, West winning the ace. Unwilling to break open clubs (which would have defeated the game), West returned a low spade. East beat dummy's eight with the king and switched to a low club.

Declarer rose with the ace of clubs, cashed the ace of diamonds discarding a club, and ruffed a diamond. He cashed the promoted queen of spades, discarding a club then, in this delightful ending, led dummy's fourth (losing) spade.

North: ♠9 (led) ♥KQ8 ♦- ♣J
West: ♠10 ♥- ♦8 ♣Q97
East: ♠- ♥J109 ♦K ♣K
South: ♠- ♥763 ♦J ♣8

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams — Advanced

North: ♠Q983 ♥AKQ84 ♦3 ♣J106
West: ♠A1062 ♥- ♦8642 ♣Q9752
East: ♠K75 ♥J1095 ♦K1097 ♣K4
South: ♠J4 ♥7632 ♦AQJ5 ♣A83

S(Nilsson)	W	N(O.Lawrence)	E
1♥ (1)	Pass	2NT(2)	Pass
4♥ (3)	End		

(1) Playing Strong and Fours.
(2) Jacoby, showing a game-forcing heart raise. The other alternative for Oliver Lawrence would be a splinter jump to 4♦, showing his shortage. However, in marginal situations, it is sensible to avoid splintering in the suit one below the trump suit — as it gives partner no room to show slam interest without going past game. Further, the splinter gives information away; had North splintered 4♦, West would have led a club v 4♥ and now the game stands no chance.
(3) Weakest action.

Contract: 4♥, Opening Lead: ♦6

If East ruffed the loser, declarer could drop his club and claim. If East discarded the king of diamonds, declarer could ruff and lead the now-promoted jack of diamonds, shedding dummy's club. East therefore discarded the king of clubs.

However, declarer could now ruff the spade and ruff the jack of diamonds. The king-queen of hearts brought his trick tally to ten, leaving both opponents (in a sense) to win the last trick, East with his master trump (who really won it) and West with the master club. A tour de force.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 81	1/3 OF IT	x 4	− 52	÷ 8	TREBLE IT	+ 15	÷ 9	CUBE IT	+ 18	ANSWER
MEDIUM 216	x 3	+ 2/3 OF IT	+ 20	÷ 10	− 2	TRIPLE IT	DOUBLE IT	x 2	− 1/3 OF IT	ANSWER
HARDER 108	x 7	DOUBLE IT	+ 16	− 5/8 OF IT	+ 7	÷ 4	− 2/5 OF IT	− 15	÷ 8	ANSWER

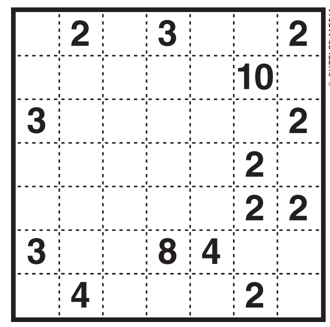
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 13 words, average; 18, good; 24, very good; 30, excellent

Yesterday's answers
ital, laity, lapis, lias, lipa, lisp, list, litas, pail, pial, pilau, pita, pity, plait, **playsuit**, puli, sail, sati, silt, silty, slip, slit, sluit, spit, split, suit, tail, tapis, tipsy, tulip, tulsi

Cell Blocks No 4799



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Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3451

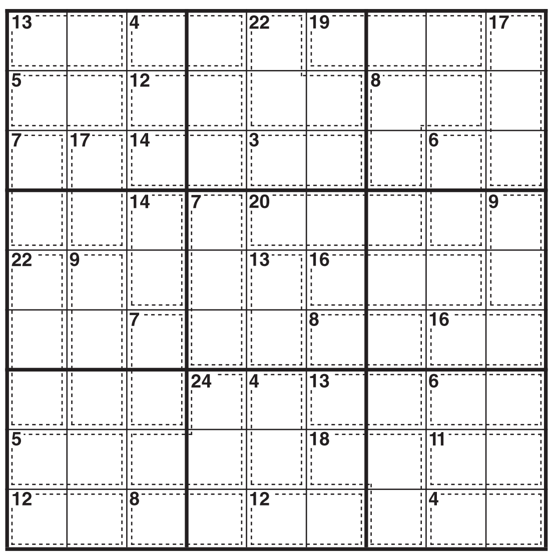
	÷	1	−		= 7
+		+		×	
	+		−		= 4
×		+		×	
8	×		−		= 41
= 112		= 10		= 56	

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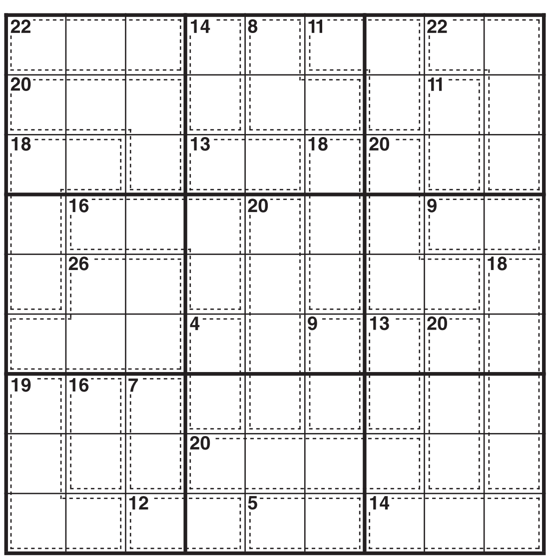
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 8903



Killer Tough No 8904



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2407

	M	A	G	N	E	T	I	C	T	A	P	E
K		T		O		A		H		M		C
N	Y	L	O	N		B	O	R	O	U	G	H
I		E		I		L		I		S		I
T	R	A	I	N	E	E		S	P	E	N	D
		S		F		T		T				N
B	U	T	T	E	R		I	M	P	A	L	A
R				C		H		A		U		
I	S	L	E	T		A	R	S	E	N	A	L
N		I		I		S		C		T		I
G	A	L	L	O	N	S		A	N	I	M	E
U		L		U		L		K		E		D
P	R	E	S	S	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	

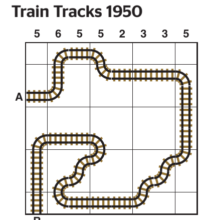
Codeword 4915

J	A	Y	W	A	L	K		C	U	M	I	N
A		I		P		I		L		A		Y
C	R	E	E	P		D	I	A	G	R	A	M
U		L		L		N		W		Q		P
Z	O	D	I	A	C	A	L		B	U	S	H
Z				U		P		T		E		
I	N	V	E	S	T		C	O	G	E	N	T
		U		E		B		M				R
F	O	L	D		C	A	N	O	N	I	S	E
O		T		L		L		R		M		A
R	E	U	N	I	T	E		R	A	B	I	D
G		R		F		E		O		U		L
E	X	E	R	T		N	O	W	H	E	R	E

Kakuro 3447

1	2	3	5		3	1		8	9
2	4	1	3		4	2	1	3	7
3	1		2	4			2	4	
		2	1	7	9	4		9	8
2	5	4	7	9	8	6		7	9
4	1		9	8	3	1	7	5	6
1	3		4	6	1	2	9		
	9	7			7	9		1	3
5	8	9	6	7		5	3	2	1
9	7		8	9		3	1	4	2

Train Tracks 1950



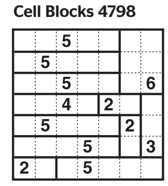
Sudoku 14,079

4	9	7	3	8	1	6	2	5
3	6	2	9	5	4	7	8	1
5	1	8	7	2	6	4	3	9
8	7	4	5	9	2	1	6	3
6	3	5	4	1	7	2	9	8
9	2	1	6	3	8	5	4	7
2	5	3	1	4	9	8	7	6
1	8	6	2	7	3	9	5	4
7	4	9	8	6	5	3	1	2

Sudoku 14,080

3	2	7	1	9	8	6	5	4
6	5	4	3	2	7	9	1	8
1	9	8	5	4	6	7	2	3
8	4	3	6	1	9	2	7	5
7	6	5	8	3	2	1	4	9
2	1	9	4	7	5	3	8	6
9	8	1	2	6	4	5	3	7
5	7	2	9	8	3	4	6	1
4	3	6	7	5	1	8	9	2

Cell Blocks 4798



Set Square 3450

5	×	4	+	8
−		+		−
2	×	9	×	6
×		+		÷
3	×	7	÷	1

Lexica 6895

F					
E	R	R	A	N	D
D			N		E
	P		T		N
S	A	N	I	T	Y
	D				

Sudoku 14,081

5	1	8	9	7	6	2	4	3
2	9	7	5	4	3	8	6	1
3	4	6	1	2	8	9	5	7
1	2	9	6	8	7	4	3	5
7	8	3	4	5	2	1	9	6
4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2	8
8	7	4	2	3	5	6	1	9
9	5	2	7	6	1	3	8	4
6	3	1	8	9	4	5	7	2

Futoshiki 4488

5		4		3		2		1
								^
2		3		5		1		4
		v						v
1		2		4	<	5		3
^								
3		5		1		4		2
^								^
4		1		2	<	3		5

KenKen 5907

6× 1	11+ 5	4	2	2÷ 3	6
2	3	5− 1	6	1− 5	4
2− 3	1	3− 2	5+ 4	14+ 6	5
24× 6	4 4	5	1	1− 2	3
4	60× 6	2÷ 3	15× 5	1	2 2
5	2	6	3	5+ 4	1

Lexica 6896

S		H			
C	H	U	C	K	
O		R		I	
P		D	O	O	M
E		L		S	
	P	E	A	K	

Killer 8901

9	4	1	3	5	8	6	7	2
8	7	2	1	6	4	3	5	9
5	3	6	7	9	2	1	4	8
2	8	9	5	7	6	4	1	3
1	6	7	8	4	3	9	2	5
3	5	4	2	1	9	8	6	7
6	1	3	9	2	5	7	8	4
7	9	5	4	8	1	2	3	6
4	2	8	6	3	7	5	9	1

Killer 8902

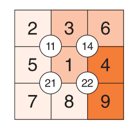
3	6	5	2	7	8	4	1	9
2	1	8	9	4	5	7	6	3
9	4	7	3	6	1	2	5	8
1	7	2	5	3	6	9	8	4
6	9	3	8	1	4	5	2	7
8	5	4	7	9	2	6	3	1
7	8	6	1	5	9	3	4	2
5	2	9	4	8	3	1	7	6
4	3	1	6	2	7	8	9	5

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Eel
2 Addle
3 Succumb
4 Scabbard
5 Lhasa apso

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Ooze
2 Grant
3 *Hamlet*
4 Immobile
5 In earnest

Suko 3817



Brain Trainer
Easy 82
Medium 864
Harder 9

Word watch

Clafoutis (b) A French baked pudding (*Collins*)
Soogee (b) A solution of soap for cleaning ships (*Chambers*)
Quellenforschung (a) Research into literary influences (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move

White wins with the brilliant interference move 1 Rd4! to which Black has no good reply: 1 ... Rxd4 2 Qg5+ and 3 Qg7 mate; 1 ... Qxd4 2 Qxc8+! Bxc8 3 Re8 mate

Quiz

1 London **2** Toblerone **3** The *Aeneid*. It is the story of Aeneas **4** Transylvania **5** Jamie Oliver **6** Hair follicles **7** Mountain lion or cougar or puma (*Puma concolor*) **8** Michael Martin **9** The *Mahabharata* **10** François Boucher **11** *Monkey Dust* **12** Fountains of Wayne **13** Charlbi Dean **14** Kiplingcotes Derby, originally called the Kiplingcotes Plate **15** Iran

MindGames

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Clafoutis
a A climbing plant
b A baked pudding
c Uproar or commotion

Soogee
a A stew made with boiled rice
b A solution of soap for cleaning ships
c A pointed arch with S-shaped sides

Quellenforschung
a Research into literary influences
b A call for silence or quiet
c A head start

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Mild No 14,082

	4				3			
		5			6	8	1	
	3	1				6		7
			8				6	2
		6				7		
2	9				5			
3		2				9	7	
	5	7	6			3		
			5				2	

Fiendish No 14,083

			9				2	
	2	8						7
	4			6	8			
8				2				
		5	1	3	6			
		2		8	4	3		
					3		6	1
5						7		
	6					2		8

Super fiendish No 14,084

	3				1			
		4					3	6
				2		7		1
	7	6	1		3		8	
			7					
	8	3	4		5		7	
				1		4		8
		2					9	3
	5				9			

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 George Orwell wrote the 1933 book *Down and Out in Paris and …* which capital city?

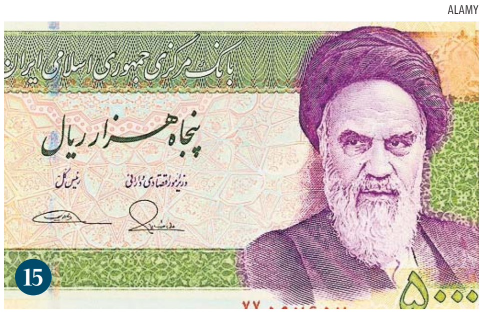
2 "Be More Triangle" is a slogan used by which Swiss chocolate brand, founded in 1908?

3 The hero of which Latin epic poem by Virgil is the son of the goddess Aphrodite and Anchises?

4 In *The Rocky Horror Show*, Dr Frank-N-Furter's home galaxy shares its name with which historical region of Romania?

5 *Billy and the Giant Adventure* (2023) is the first children's book by which Clavering-born celebrity chef?

ALAMY



15

6 Acne can be caused by the blockage of which tube-like structures in the skin?

7 Which big cat is the native land mammal with the largest range in the Western hemisphere?

8 In 2000, which Scottish Labour MP became the first Catholic to serve as Speaker since the Reformation?

9 In 1985, Peter Brook staged a nine-hour adaptation of which Sanskrit epic poem near Avignon?

10 In 1765, which French painter was appointed first painter to the king (Louis XV)?

11 Co-created by Harry Thompson, which BBC3 animated comedy series featured characters Ivan Dobsky, Fran Chappell and Clive Pringle?

12 *Radiation Vibe* was the 1996 debut single of which US power-pop band?

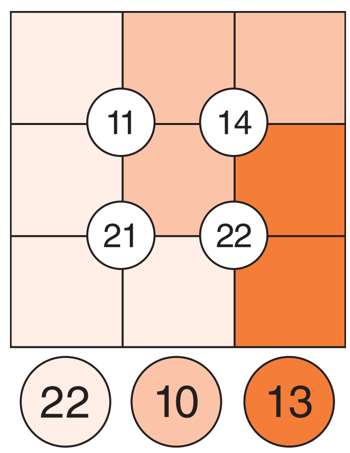
13 Which South African star of the Palme d'Or-winning *Triangle of Sadness* died aged 32 in August 2022?

14 Reputedly started in 1519, what is the oldest flat horse race in England's sporting history?

15 Which country's 50,000 rial banknote is pictured?

Answers on page 15

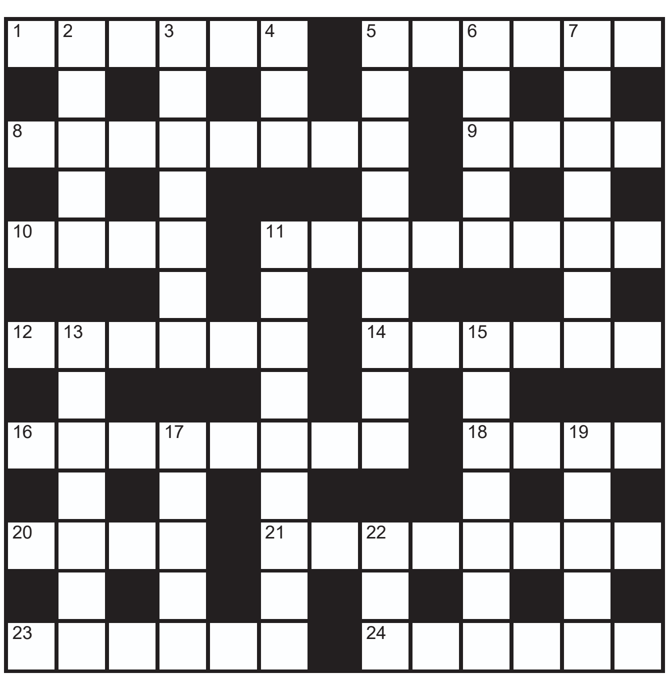
Suko
No 3817



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2408 by Joker



Across
1 Not sweet, animal, heartless. Just so (6)
5 Patrol going around entrance (6)
8 Risk grenade exploding with pin's end put in (8)
9 President that's cleaner? Not right (4)
10 Amphibian's weight in trap (4)
11 Nice place, relaxing (8)
12 Scattered boxes with energy (6)
14 Without leaders, fun truly is wild (6)
16 Tell about English initially going lower in division (8)
18 Sulphur frequently is not hard to the touch (4)
20 Execute reform centrally (4)
21 Head leaves Bedfordshire town likely to fail (8)
23 Establish a colony somewhere in Yorkshire (6)
24 Wizard writer for children (6)

Down
2 Fury about new rocket-testing area (5)
3 Large area requires empty outdoor vehicle (7)
4 Record piece of firewood (3)
5 Hound is in itself endearingly attractive (9)
6 Puzzle about public transport (5)
7 Weapon store is second in combat zone left (7)
11 Strange erratum replacing middle of page is ill-considered (9)
13 Repaper for renovation — and what one must do first? (7)
15 Perhaps lounge with paintings to go from the top (7)
17 Cube has heaviness without width (5)
19 Primarily fake, artificial, lying, sham, ersatz? (5)
22 Lose one's footing, dropping large drink (3)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

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